

*Helping Producers Implement
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Kittson County*



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**Minutes of the Meeting of
Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Held on July 14th, 2011**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 14th, 2011, at Lakeside Sporting Goods located in Lake Bronson, Minnesota.

Members present at the meeting included Chairman, Greg Peterson; Treasurer, Joe Wilebski; Secretary, Justin Dagen and Public Relations, Ron Anderson. Vacant: Vice Chairman.

Others present at the meeting were District Manager, Darren Carlson; Administrative Clerk, Virginia Olson; Program Coordinator, Shane Olson; Program Analyst, James Schwab; Technician, Mark Larson and Keely Olson.

The minutes of the June 9th, 2011, meeting was approved, upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Wilebski, and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

Upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote the treasurer's report was approved as presented by Olson. Upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Wilebski, and unanimous vote, for check #3123 through #3158 for the amount of \$18,428.32 for the month of June was approved as presented by Olson.

Accounts receivable: Olson reported that Shane Olson and Lowell Younggren have accounts receivable for 2010.

Virginia Olson gave the Administrative Clerk's report as follows:

Federal Mileage rate: Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote to increase the Federal mileage rate from \$0.51 to \$0.555 retroactive to July 1st.

Available Funds: The balances listed below are as of June 30th, unless otherwise noted: LWMP, \$0 County, \$10,835.28 SWCD; CLWP Dedicated Fund \$24,160; WCA, \$0 County, \$6,351.45 SWCD; Shoreland, \$0 County, \$1,414.97 SWCD; Feedlot, \$0 County, \$4,992.99 SWCD; SSTS, \$0 County, \$4,942.33 SWCD; Brillion \$1,225.01 SWCD; and Beaver \$1,340.

Darren Carlson gave the District Manager's report as follows:

Clean Water Fund meeting: A Clean Water Fund Meeting with Kelly Bengtson of KCHD, Kelly Turgeon of FSA, Schwab and Carlson pertaining to County Ditches in Hill and St. Vincent Township.

Area I meeting: A MASWCD Area I Meeting was held on June 16th at the VFW in Ada. Carlson and Virginia Olson attended. They discussed the potential shutdown of what it would mean for BWSR and SWCD's. Jerome Deal of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District talked about the Red River Retention Authority. They said it would be similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority. All permit processed for drainage, construction, dikes, etc. would be the same and every acre foot of water that is held back would need to be "log in" with this Authority.

Clean Water Fund Meeting: Chad Severts of BWSR was up here prior to the state shutdown to discuss the Clean Water funding.

Plotmaster: The Plotmaster was delivered on June 27th. The final price for the tool was \$4,834.28. Thanks to Larson for going on the website and finding a promotion for a free Reversible Tooth Point Attachment and Grain Drill Attachment for purchasing a Plotmaster during the promotion period.

Kittson SWCD Fair Booth: Carlson and Shane Olson set up the Fair Booth on July 7th. Also on display was the new Plotmaster in the booth. Outside of the building the Brillion was on display. Winds in the afternoon of the 1st day wreaked havoc with the booth and Virginia Olson was up there and set it up again. Four potted Black Hills Spruce trees were given away. Shane Olson said the lucky winners were Marge Dykhuis, Charles Knapp and Robert Peterson.

Kittson SWCD Brillion Rental Program: Carlson discussed the Brillion Drill rental program. Many applicants could not use the drill due to the wet spring.

MDA Nitrate Clinic: Carlson said the Minnesota Department of Agriculture staff member delivered the testing items on June 27th. The testing clinic was held from June 28 - 30th at our office. Carlson said 10 samples were brought in and tested. Carlson hopes to do the same clinic next year, if there is funding and MDH will make sure they get an article in the paper, as they did not get it in before the local Newspaper deadlines.

CRP Status Review Service: Carlson reported that 50 landowners/CRP participants who would like the SWCD to do a status review on their site. He discussed a "liability" letter he will have the participants sign before doing their status reviews.

Kittson SWCD/NRCS CRP Contribution Work Agreement: Carlson recently learned that NRCS would like to have a Contribution Work Agreement with SWCD to do CRP plans/status reviews from this past spring's CRP Signup. As of now the Kittson SWCD is scheduled for 80 of these plans. 12 Continuous CRP plans in Kittson County, 40 General CRP in Kittson County and 28 General CRP in Marshall County around the Strandquist Area. Carlson said USDA is paying \$480 per plan, which would total \$38,400. General CRP Plans would need a site visit just like what we are doing with the Kittson SWCD CRP Status Reviews and the plans need to be done by September 2, 2011. As of right now there is no contract signed with NRCS.

Temp position: Carlson brought up the fact about the extra work load right now with the contribution work agreements for CRP and due to the State shutdown; Dion Turgeon is available for field checks. Turgeon has past experience field checking CRP when the CRP REX system took place 3 years ago and he currently deals with prairies for the DNR. Even if he does go back to work, Carlson could use Turgeon's expertise on weekends as well. Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote to hire Dion Turgeon as a temporary position to do field status reviews for CRP.

Administrative Clerk position: Carlson brought up the fact about the extra work load right now with the contribution work agreements for CRP and the Clean Water Legacy funds that maybe is the time to get Virginia Olson on fulltime. Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote to increase Virginia Olson's position to full time.

SWI: Carlson will attend Side Water Inlet training in Thief River Falls on July 22nd.

WCA/Swampbuster Agreement with NRCS: Carlson previously reported he will need to partake in the 5 Day Basic Wetland Delineation workshop in Little Falls July 25 to 29th; however that has been postponed to October 10 to the 14th. There will be Wetland Contribution Agreement training by conference call on July 14th. He says there will also be an additional Training session in Thief River Falls on August 2nd. He says he will be receiving additional information on this Work Agreement in future Board Meetings.

Kittson SWCD/NRCS Spring Brook Project CWA: Carlson received an email from Schwab and Glen Kajewski about visiting with John Brach about the Springbrook funding for an agreement and expectations of doing construction inspection of the dike s in the PL566 project. The agreement could be for up to \$50,000 although it would probably be less.

County Budget: Carlson will meet with the County Commissioners on July 19th to go over the budget and county funding. Carlson is asking for a 3% bump in County Funding. Olson will meet with them on August 2nd to discuss the County Ag Inspector's budget, since he will be attending another meeting on July 19th. Olson asked the Board if we should ask for an increase or keep it the same as last year. The Board asked him to ask for the same.

James Schwab gave the NRCS Program Analyst's report as follows:

Discrimination: Schwab talked about a discrimination lawsuit against NRCS.

CSP: Schwab said that 5 CSP applications were funded for about \$810,000.

EQIP: Schwab said EQIP projects were funded in Kittson County for about \$893,500.

Stork report: Larson mentioned that his wife Nikki is expecting the couple's first child. The Board congratulated Larson.

Shane Olson gave the Program Coordinator's report as follows:

AgBMP applications: Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Dagen and unanimous vote to fund a chisel plow for Anderson Farms for \$30,000. The current loan applications are as follows: Sevrin Anderson (Air Seeder, however not eligible due to amount of funds on loan in program), NRR Farms (chisel plow), Brian Dahl (Air seeder, not eligible until next payment has been made); CJ Peterson (16 row conservation planter); and Matt Nelson (chisel plow).

Staff meeting: A staff meeting was held on June 15th.

State Cost share: Olson said he has received two additional well sealing applications; however Bruce Gunderson has been on vacation and has not provided estimates and he will not be able to seal any wells during the state shutdown anyway due to Department of Health permit numbers and Gopher State One Call shut down.

Springbrook RIM/PL566: Olson reported there is nothing new with the Springbrook PL566 project, as landowners will not proceed further without final engineering report stating where dike locations will be. Olson received title work for easement # (35-01-09-08) from Nycklemoe Law Office in Fergus Falls to begin Easement work recently. Olson sent it to BWSR in St Paul, however will not proceed until the state government is again up and running.

CAI weed letters: Olson started sending weed letters out a couple weeks ago and is up to about 45 letters.

CAI Budget: Olson will meet with the Commissioner's August 2nd for the 2012 budget.

CAI testing: Two TNC employees recently took Non-commercial applicator exams A and C.

2011 CAI Shortcourse: The 2011 CAI Shortcourse will be held at the Sportsman's Lodge in Baudette on July 25-27th. Many sites will be attended on tour, such as a grass seed facility, a wild rice farm, a seed potato farm and several others as well.

MACFO: There was a quarterly MACFO meeting in Detroit Lakes on July 19th; however the government shutdown will most likely postpone it to a later date.

WCA WW Trails violation: WW Trails received their restoration order May 16th by certified mail. Robert Christensen is in charge for WW Trails and he sent a letter that he is working with TNC and DNR on the issue although it is very, very wet out there. They have a drop-dead date of November 10th on the restoration order or face DNR Enforcement action.

WCA Ehlen violation: Charles Ehlen is working with Boonestro Consulting and is hoping to prepare an after the fact application, which I notified Dale Krystosek of. BWSR's Dale Krystosek and Corps Larry Puchalski met on site of the violation on June 29th to see what they could possibly do for an after the fact application. Puchalski stated that this violation is past the statute of limitations for the Corps to have jurisdiction of.

WCA KCHD CSAH 6 & CSAH 30: Olson recently provided slides to Mark Aanenson of Houston Engineering to do wetland determinations for the CSAH 6 and CSAH 30 projects for wetland mitigation for BWSR and Corps mitigation. Olson says there will be an upcoming TEP meeting being held for this project.

Northstar Agri-business: Olson received word that the Canola Processing Facility will be submitting a permit application for a natural gas pipeline spur off of the existing line near Charlie Swanson's to the new facility.

WCA Truscinski violation/Outdoor classroom: Alan Truscinski sent an appeal letter to BWSR state office and then withdrew the appeal. Meanwhile, Ron Mooney hired Matt Kuznia to restore the site, as he was out of compliance with FSA and now restoration is complete. Since the sod is gone, Mooney would like to maintain the site where the violation occurred as a firebreak, but has to get FSA's approval to do so, however if not he will re-seed it. However, DNR Enforcement flew over to take aerial photos of the violation to get a better perspective of the violations occurred separately from the violation he created on Ron Mooney's property. Further North, Truscinski has done excavation on our SWCD property in addition to his property. On June 22nd, Olson received additional aerial photos of wetland violations on property owned by Alan Truscinski South of CSAH 4 in Roseau County. Ben Huener, Larry Puchalski, Dale Krystosek, Scott Johnson and Olson met on site with Truscinski on June 29th. Johnson was planning to GPS the violation sites and then get back to us to decide if we send 1, 2 or 3 wetland restorations or collectively as 1.

WCA CP Rail: AECOM is preparing a wetland mitigation plan for CP Rail who is extending the siding at Lake Bronson to 10,000 feet, as they are running 8,500 ft trains these days. BWSR's Dale Krystosek, Corps Larry Puchalski and I met on site with Railroad officials and AECOM employees. CP Rail will be purchasing wetland banking credits for the project; however the government shutdown currently will delay that process.

August Board meeting: The next regular scheduled Board meeting is August 11th at 7:15 AM.

SW Kittson County Board member area: Carlson mentioned that he has had no interest in the Board position vacancy left by the resignation of Scott Klein.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Peterson.

Justin Dagen by Virginia Olson
Justin Dagen, Secretary