

*Helping Producers Implement
Best Management Practices
For Conservation Purposes in
Kittson County*



410 South 5th Street - Suite 106 - Hallock MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843 2619 - Fax (218) 843-2772 - kittsonswcd.org

Minutes of the Meeting of

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

**Held on Friday, November 17, 2014 at 8:00 AM at the Nordhem Restaurant in
Karlstad, MN.**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on November 17, 2014 at 8:00 AM at the Nordhem Restaurant in Karlstad, MN.

Members present at the meeting included: Chairman, CJ Peterson; Vice Chairwoman, Heather Peterson; Secretary, Justin Dagen; Treasurer, Joe Wilebski. Absent was Public Relations; Ron Anderson.

Others present at the meeting were District Manager, Darren Carlson, District Technician Justin Muller, Jacob Swaney NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS Assistance State Conservationist Field Office Dan Weber and Jim Schwab, NRCS District Conservationist.

The minutes from the October 24th Board meeting were not present at this meeting and will be presented at a later board meeting.

The Treasurer's report for October was not present at this meeting and will be presented at a later board meeting.

Darren introduced Jacob Swaney new NRCS Soil Conservation Technician to the Kittson SWCD board.

Darren also introduced Dan Weber NRCS Assistance State Conservationist Field Office to the Kittson SWCD board.

Darren Carlson gave the District Coordinator report:

Lucas Myles Osowski: Darren reported that Justin and Jamie Osowski had a baby boy on 11/2/14 at 1:07 a.m. Lucas weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19.75 inches long. Lucas and parents are home at this time. Jamie will be on maternity leave until after Christmas/New Years. Jamie will present the October Treasurer's report and minutes from the October board meeting at the next board meeting she will attend. Jamie will stop in from time to time at the office for payroll, write checks and to show off Lucas the SWCD/NRCS staff.

Ag BMP Loans: Darren reported to the board that the office received 1 Ag BMP loan. The application was submitted by Bobby Lindegard for \$59,500.00 for a 60 foot Wilrich Cultivator for his operation. Motion was made by H. Peterson and Seconded by Wilebski to approve the loan for Bobby Lindegard.

Beaver Bounty Program: Darren reported to the board that Dennis Kinkead stopped in and dropped off 9 beaver tails and was paid on 11/17/14. These nuisance beavers were trapped and caught in North Red River Township Section 2 (2 beavers), Thompson Township Sections 13 (2 beavers) and 14 (2 beavers) and Granville Township Section 30 (3 beavers).

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS Report

Jacob Swaney: Jim introduced Jacob Swaney. Jacob previously worked with the NRCS in Michigan and currently makes the drive from Grand Forks, ND to Hallock to work. Jacob gave a presentation on November is Native American Heritage Month and also handed out bags of wild rice to the SWCD board and staff. Welcome Jacob!

Dan Weber: Jim also introduced Dan Weber. Dan is originally from the Crookston, MN area. He farmed before joining NRCS. Dan previously worked with the NRCS as a District Conservationist in the Duluth Field Office before coming to Thief River Falls, MN. One of his goals is to visit each of the Area I (Northwest MN) SWCD/NRCS office on a yearly basis. Dan talked about a pilot program RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program). The purpose of the RCPP is to promote coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. Welcome Dan!

EQIP Update: Jim reported there are currently 4 applications. A NRCS training session will take place in Walker sometime in January to go over the new EQIP docket.

CSP Update: Jim reported 2 renewals.

CRP Update: Jim reported this past spring/summer was difficult for CRP participants to get their acres seeded. 93 contracts that were supposed to be seeded this year will take place in 2015.

Justin Muller gave the District Technician Report

BWSR Academy: Justin reported him and Darren attended BWSR Academy at Breezy Point Resort at Nisswa, MN October 28 to October 30. Some breakout sessions attended were RIM and WCA related. The academy is a great event to communicate with other SWCD's and BWSR and to put a face with a name. It is an excellent training.

WCA: Justin visited John Finney wetland site. John would like to be able to farm a 0.3 acre wetland that is currently not being cropped. He would like to buy credits to be able to farm it. BWSR's staff Ryan Heinen and Dale Krystosek is working with Justin on the WCA program.

CAI: Justin attended a CAI Meeting in Mahanomen, MN on 11/5/14. Justin introduced himself at the meeting and met other County Ag Inspectors from other counties in NW MN.

Darren Carlson gave the District Manager report

2014 Election Results: Darren handed out election results for 2014. C.J. Peterson was elected for SWCD District 1, Justin Dagen was elected for SWCD District 3 and Ronald J Anderson was elected for SWCD District 4. Their 4 year terms will start on 1/1/15. Congratulations!

2014 MASWCD Annual Convention: The MASWCD Annual Convention will be held December 8 & 9 in Bloomington MN. Kittson SWCD staff Darren and Justin will be attending. Supervisor Justin Dagen will also be able to attend on December 8. Outstanding Conservationists Darwyn and Rory Anderson will be recognized at this event. Darren also handed out an 11 X 17 poster for the SWCD Board Members to look at. This poster highlighted the Kittson SWCD's and NRCS accomplishments from the past couple of years. An actual poster will be framed and be on display at the Annual Convention this year along with other Area 1's SWCD's posters.

Kittson SWCD Tree Program: Darren reported over 10,000 trees have been ordered for the 2015 tree planting season. Currently there are 12 tree plantings scheduled for 2015.

Kittson SWCD Tree Planter and Brillion Seeder: Darren reported that both the tree planter and Brillion seeder were transported and are being stored for the winter at the Carlson Farm near Angus, MN for the winter.

Health Insurance: Darren reported that Eric Christensen (County Administrator) presented the email stating the Kittson SWCD staff would like to be on the County's Insurance to the County Commissioners at their last meeting. The Commissioners stated they needed an actual letter signed by the Chair of the Kittson SWCD stating their intentions for the Kittson SWCD staff to be on the County's Insurance. A letter was drafted by Darren asking the Kittson County Commissioners to consider placing the Kittson SWCD staff on the County's Insurance. A motion was made by J. Dagen, a 2nd by H. Peterson and an unanimous vote of the supervisors to approve this letter, SWCD chair signed it and to submit the letter to the county commissioners.

State Cost Share Amendments: Due to the past spring's heavy rains and poor planting conditions, 3 state cost share contracts for tree plantings could not be completed. These 3 contracts are:

- Mark Langehaug FY 13-05 Field Windbreak
- Steve Klopp FY 13-07 Field Windbreak
- Steve Klopp FY 13-08 Field Windbreak

These 3 contracts are planned to be planted in spring 2015. Their current State Cost Share contracts states that "Practice will be installed by 12/31/14 unless this contract is amended by mutual consent to reschedule the work and funding". H. Peterson made a motion, R. Anderson 2nd and a unanimous vote of the supervisors to approve an amendment to all 3 of these contracts stating practice will be installed by 12/31/15 instead of 12/31/14.

State Cost Share Payments: Darren reported to the board that Nathan Younggren, FY 12-05 well sealing was recently completed by licensed Jon Leader. Mr. Leader's statement was for \$1,300.00 to seal the well. Upon a motion by J. Dagen, seconded by R. Anderson and a unanimous vote to pay Mr. Younggren's FY 12-05 contract \$975.00. State Cost Share will pay \$650.00 and \$325.00 will come from the Local Water Plan – Tax Levy. Before pictures of the well was also passed around to show how big and what the well looked like to the board.

State Cost Share Payments: Darren reported to the board that Hallock Township, FY 14-02 streambank stabilization was recently completed by Anderson Brothers. Kelly Bengston signed off on the voucher that an inspection has been performed and the practice was built as designed. Anderson Brothers' statement was for \$15,505.00 to build/install the streambank stabilization project as planned. Upon a motion by J. Dagen, seconded by J. Wilebski and an unanimous vote to pay Hallock Township's FY 14-02 contract \$7,568.57.00 from State Cost Shae funds. Before and after pictures of the streambank stabilization project was also passed around for the Board to look at.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Grant: Darren handed out a budget and timeline for the AIS Grant Dollars.

Winter Newsletter: Darren reported that close to 2,300 newsletters were folded and sent out to area landowners. Kittson SWCD, NRCS and Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD) staff assisted in this process. AIS Dollars was used for the postage and SWCD staff time for the newsletters as indicated in the AIS timeline and budget.

FY 2012 and FY 2013 Clean Water Funds Extensions: Extensions will be needed for these Clean Water Funds. Currently funds will need to be spent by 12/31/14. Due to the lack of a CCRP signup for the past year, very little of these funds were used. Darren will talk to Matt Fischer (Board Conservationist with BWSR) on what steps are needed to extend the deadline. Also Darren stated Justin Muller has been surveying with Kittson County Highway staff on two upcoming streambank stabilization projects. These projects are potential proposals for next Clean Water Funds grants.

Zoning: Landowners have been stopping in for zoning. Recently Kittson County sent a ledger to the Kittson SWCD about 20 landowners who built structures but failed to obtain permits. Kittson SWCD will treat these as After The Fact (ATF) zoning permits. These will take about 60 to 80 hours to complete.

December Board Meeting: The December 2014 Board meeting is scheduled for December 12th, 2014 at 8:00 AM at the Kittson SWCD office.

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Justin Dagen, Secretary

