Helping Producers Implement Best Management Practices for Conservation Purposes in Kittson County



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Minutes of the Meeting of Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Held on October 26th, 2010

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, at the Kittson SWCD office located in Hallock, Minnesota.

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Klein.

The minutes of the September $9^{\rm th}$, 2010, meeting was approved, upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Wilebski, and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

Upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Peterson and unanimous vote the treasurer's report was approved as presented by Quiner. Upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Peterson, and unanimous vote, for check #2913 through #2930 for the amount of \$35,224.86 for the month of September was approved as presented by Quiner.

Accounts receivable: Quiner reported that there are no accounts receivable for 2009.

Joanne Quiner gave the District Coordinator's report as follows:

Rain gauge: Quiner said she prepared some barbeques and other food items for this afternoon's rain gauge appreciation day. Carlson sent out letters, data sheets and stamped envelopes to each rain gauge monitor.

<u>Available Funds:</u> The balances listed below are as of September 30^{th} , unless otherwise noted: LWMP, \$5,921 County, \$204.34 SWCD; CLWP Dedicated Fund \$44,160; WCA, \$13,737 County, \$457.78 SWCD; Shoreland, \$1,516 County, \$465.59 SWCD; Feedlot, \$7,500 County, \$28.28 SWCD; SSTS, \$5,051 County, \$4,010 SWCD; and Beaver \$0.

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

SSTS meeting: Carlson attended a meeting held in Erskine on October 13th by MPCA to discuss county updates. MPCA is now saying that ordinances do not need to be updated until 2012, and a MPCA staff member will help each county with their updates. Other items discussed where unlicensed operators in Marshall, Pennington and Clearwater counties and about enforcement or lack thereof.

Abandoned Well Inventory: As one of the goals in the CLWP, Carlson has started an abandoned well inventory. He took 1952 and 1979 plat books and compared with the most current plat books. If a farmstead was there in the early plat books and not in the most current one, then that was considered a potential abandoned well. He put potential abandoned wells on an ARC MAP layer and made an excel spreadsheet database and put it on the shared directory. NRCS and Kittson SWCD staffs have access on this shared directory. He also created an ARC MAP layer that shows cost shared well sealings. An excel spreadsheet was also made for this. BWSR says there potentially maybe more funding for well sealings and other projects in the future. However; beforehand BWSR wants to see what cost share programs we have been already using. Carlson sent 120 letters to potential abandoned well owners in St. Vincent, Hill, North Red River, South Red River and Teien Townships to inform them of various Cost Share funding opportunities.

Nutrient Management Plans: EQIP in 2010 paid \$5.54 / acre / yr for 3 years for up to 320 acres for nutrient management practice. NRCS will not be doing the plans and applicants will need to find a Technical Service Provider (TSP). Carlson needs to perform 3 plans before he can become a certified TSP for nutrient management practice. The Kittson SWCD could charge \$2.25 / acre / yr to provide these plans to the landowners. A plan takes and estimated 8 hours per each year.

NRCS Contribution Work Agreements: Rumor is NRCS will pay \$500 per plan for this past general CRP Signup for SWCD's to have a site visit and then create the plan and fill out other paperwork. Training will be held in TRF in the future to go over what is needed. Marshall, Roseau and Pennington will be doing plans also. Each plan will take an estimated 8 to 10 hours to complete and 38 plans need to be generated in Kittson County.

County Local Water Plan (CLWP): Carlson met with the Kittson County Commissioners on August 17th. The commissioner's passed the resolution and Carlson sent a copy of it to BWSR.

<u>Shoreland:</u> Carlson will meet with Garry Bennett and Dan Money on October 29th for Schwenzfeier's coulee cleanout in Clow 25.

Clean Water Grants: Carlson said no word as of yet.

 $\underline{\it NW~Water~Festival}$: Carlson was a presenter for the September 21st $\underline{\it NW~Water~Festival}$ in Warren.

<u>Plotmaster:</u> Carlson submitted a grant application for a 1:1 match for wildlife projects to Pat McMullen with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Olson reminded the Board that it would be AGBMP eligible if we are selected to purchase.

<u>MASWCD Convention:</u> Carlson plans on attending the MASWCD Annual Convention in St. Paul on December 5-8th.

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

<u>Area Resource Conservationist:</u> Schwab reported sad news that Al Gustafson is battling cancer and is taking treatments in Rochester. In the meantime, he will be detailed to do Al Gustafson's workload throughout Area I.

EQIP: Schwab said there is no word of when the EQIP sign-up will begin.

WHIP: Schwab said USDA announced a WHIP sign-up coming up.

<u>Hispanic Heritage Month:</u> Schwab said that September-October is Hispanic Heritage month.

<u>National Disabilities Month:</u> Schwab said that October is National Disabilities month.

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

<u>Staff meeting:</u> Staff meetings were held on September 29^{th} and October 21^{st} .

<u>Set Aside:</u> Seven Red River Valley Set Aside payments were sent

AgBMP applications: Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Peterson, and unanimous vote to fund Todd Sorenson's disk for \$46,000 from revolving funds. The current loan applications through Farm Credit are as follows: Sevrin Anderson (Air Seeder) and Joel Lindegard (Air seeder). Olson recently sent out applications to Darwyn Anderson and Frame Farms.

Springbrook RIM/PL566: Schwab said NRCS staff will be up here November 2nd to look over the project. Nearly all the areas along the Springbrook coulee system have been enrolled in CRP. Olson has a couple left to get from FSA. Olson will be getting deeds from Doug Wonnenberg, who bought the Roger Bogestad property to send them to BWSR. Next step is to get them to a title agent from the Fergus Falls area, as Roger Malm will not do them.

State Cost share: Olson has two well sealing applications, however, he hasn't gotten estimates back from Bruce Gunderson. One is for Daniel Remer in Lancaster and the other is for Clayton Westman in Humboldt.

Feedlot: Olson had to perform 2 site inspections for feedlot. He was at Mark Langehaug's and Frame's.

<u>WCA applications:</u> Olson forwarded on to Larry Pulchalski of the COE and Dale Krystosek from BWSR, Northstar Agri Industries application for the canola crushing plant.

<u>WCA TEP:</u> Larry Pulchalski of the COE and Dale Krystosek from BWSR will be coming up November 9th. They will look at Brian Nelson's site in McKinley Township, for building roads.

<u>WCA violation:</u> Olson received photographs of a violation on the Roseau County side, next to the Outdoor Classroom.

TSA: Jim Hest will possibly be coming up October 28th survey Carlson Prairie Seed Farms Side Water Inlet.

Area I meeting: The Area I meeting is November 18th in Ada.

November Board meeting: The next scheduled Board meeting is on Veteran's Day, so the Board decided to have the next Board meeting on November $16^{\rm th}$ at 8 AM.

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

Justin Dagen, Secretary