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**Minutes of the Meeting of
Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Held on September 9th, 2011**

The Board of Supervisors of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District held its regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 9th, 2011, at the Farm Service Agency meeting room located in Hallock, Minnesota.

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

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

The minutes of the August 11th, 2011, meeting was approved, upon a motion by Dagen, seconded by Wilebski, and unanimous vote of the supervisors.

Upon a motion by Anderson, seconded by Wilebski and unanimous vote the treasurer's report was approved as presented by V. Olson. Upon a motion by Anderson, seconded by Wilebski, and unanimous vote, for check #3183 through #3205 for the amount of \$11,975.05 for the month of August was approved as presented by V. Olson.

Accounts receivable: V. Olson reported that Shane Olson has accounts receivable for 2010.

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

CD's: V. Olson said one of the CD's recently lapsed and she will be renewing it.

SWCD Governance 101: V. Olson will attend the upcoming SWCD Governanace 101 on September 12-13th at Alexandria.

BWSR Academy: V. Olson will attend BWSR Academy on October 25-27th at Breezy Point.

Available Funds: The balances listed below are as of August 31st, unless otherwise noted: LWMP, \$0 County, \$7,023.26 SWCD; CLWP Dedicated Fund \$24,160; WCA, \$0 County, \$5,617.90 SWCD; Shoreland, \$0 County, \$1,324.97 SWCD; Feedlot, \$0 County, \$4,992.99 SWCD; SSTS, \$0 County, \$4,672.33 SWCD; Brillion \$1,225.01 SWCD; and Beaver \$900.

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

MASWCD Convention: Carlson and Schwab will attend the MASWCD Convention December 4-6th at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington.

Outstanding Conservationist: S. Olson said Mike Ratzlaff was on vacation when the deadline for Outstanding Conservationist took place. The Board said he will be chosen for next year. Olson said it would give us a chance to get good photographs throughout the year of his operation.

NRBG: Carlson presented the proposed FY12 Natural Resources Block Grant funds as follows: LWMP, \$15,279; WCA, \$16,447; Shoreland, \$2,647; Feedlot, \$7,500; and SSTS, \$18.941.

BWSR General Services: Carlson presented the proposed FY12 BWSR General Services Grant funds as follows: General services, \$19,184; State Cost Share, \$12,489; Kittson County Levy, \$2,381; and RIM, \$383.

FY 2012 CWF: Carlson said the application deadline is September 20, 2011. Carlson will be writing CWF applications for additional funding for the Lake Bronson Watershed Project-Phase II; County Red River of the North Watershed Runoff Reduction Project; Culvert resizing in Richardville Township; Brian Dahl Streambank Stabilization and potential ARC MAP/GIS CRP Contract Layer Update.

CRP Status Reviews: Carlson said roughly 150 CRP contracts have been checked, with 30 contracts remaining. He said numerous landowners who have contracts expiring in 2012 have inquired about the CP-23 practice. As they are eligible to sign up starting October 1st. He believes it will be extremely busy before next year sign up with landowners stopping in to discuss status reviews and practices they should sign up for.

CRP Contribution Work Agreements: Carlson said the month of August was spent on CRP Contribution Work Agreements. Kittson SWCD completed 101 of these plans; 32 Continuous CRP plans in Kittson County, 40 General CRP in Kittson County and 28 General CRP from Marshall County in the Strandquist area. For completing the 101 plans, \$48,480 will be received. An invoice for the work performed was sent to MASWCD on September 8th.

WCA/Swampbuster Agreement with NRCS: Carlson said there was a Wetland Contribution Agreement teleconference on August 16-17th. There was an additional conference call on August 9th. BWSR has scheduled a SWCD training September 26-29th in Alexandria. Carlson said the Contribution Work Agreement was mailed to NRCS September 8th. The application was submitted to NRCS for \$15,000. The Wetland Agreement is on a yearly basis and NRCS appears to have funding for the agreements in 2013 and 2014.

Newsletter: A newsletter will be coming up in a couple weeks.

Joe River TMDL: Carlson said there will be no funding for the Joe River TMDL this year.

Annual leave: Carlson asked the Board permission to use annual leave for beet harvest in October. His plans are to be here 7 to 11 each day and using 4 hours annual leave the rest of the day. Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Dagen, and unanimous vote, to allow Carlson to use 4 hours annual leave each day for beet harvest.

Jim Schwab gave the NRCS report as follows:

CRP & EQIP: Schwab said most of the workload right now is CRP and EQIP.

Copier: Schwab said they will be receiving a new copier. Once that happens the SWCD could consider selling their copier.

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

AgBMP applications: 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); Matt Nelson (chisel plow); Jerod Hanson (Air Seeder) and Jon Langen (no-till air seeder). Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Anderson, and unanimous vote, to fund Matt Nelson's field cultivator for \$45,000 from revolving funds and North Red River Farms chisel plow for \$25,000 from local lender funds.

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

Springbrook RIM/PL566: Olson received title work for easement # (35-01-09-08) from Nycklemoe Law Office in Fergus Falls to begin Easement work recently. Duwayne Ditterich needs to return the mortgage consent form to me and then forward to BWSR. Olson reported that Dan Money says NRCS' Pete Cooper is talking about realigning a portion of the dikes. Carlson say he has the dike locations on Arc View.

Red River Valley Set Aside: Olson performed the 4 site inspections for the Red River Valley Set Aside contracts and they are ready for their annual payment. Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Anderson, and unanimous vote, to pay the Red River Valley Set Aside contracts for 2011.

FY11 state Cost share: Olson received a cost share estimate from Bruce Gunderson for Cheryl Sjodin's well sealing application FY11-01 for \$1,080.00. Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Anderson, and unanimous vote to encumber state cost share contract #FY11-01 for \$540.00 from State Cost share funds and \$270.00 from CLWP funds. Olson said he has received well sealing applications from Joel Lindegard and Bruce Weleski; however Bruce Gunderson has not provided estimates as of it.

FY10 state Cost share: Upon a motion by Wilebski, seconded by Anderson, and unanimous vote to pay FY10-02 contract for \$212.50 for state cost share and \$106.25 from CLWP; FY10-03 contract for \$200.00 for state cost share and \$100.00 from CLWP; FY10-05 contract for \$150.00 for state cost share and \$75.00 from CLWP; and FY10-06 contract for \$287.50 for state cost share and \$143.75 from CLWP.

Ratzlaff SWI: Olson received the Hest design for Mike Ratzlaff's side water inlet structure (SWI). Olson dropped off a copy at Ratzlaff's shop.

MACFO: The quarterly MACFO meeting in Detroit Lakes postponed on July 19th due to the government shutdown, and according to Mike Sharp will be re-scheduled as a live web meeting in the near future.

MACFO conference: The MACFO Conference is scheduled for October 18-20th at Winona and doesn't plan on attending.

Feedlot mid-year review: Olson says MPCA's Mike Sharp did the mid-year review on August 30th. Sharp said the only thing needed for him is that the performance credit worksheet needs to be uploaded to the county website. Olson contacted Shirley Swenson to do so as she is the County contact person for updating the website.

Feedlot inspections: Olson completed two Feedlot inspections recently. The minimum requirement is 7% for each county. Since we have 20 feedlots, MPCA requires 1.4 inspections.

CAI weed letters: Olson has sent 114 weed letters out, including 4 individual notices. Following the CRP haying and grazing date on August 2nd, many locations were taken care of. In addition Olson submitted 12 noxious weed infestation reports to Turgeon for violations.

CAI Purple Loosestrife: Mark Larson pointed out a couple Purple Loosestrife infestations. The new one is located near Owen Westerberg's in Hazelton Township and the other location is along CSAH 17 East of Jeff Deere's in Granville Township. Olson contacted Luke Skinner from MN DNR who deals with bio control agents for the plant. Skinner dealt with the site in Granville Township in the past.

CAI seed: Jeff Siira of Minnesota Department of Ag came up on August 18th to stop at some seed dealers in the Lancaster area unannounced. We stopped by Orleans Grain, Lancaster Hardware Hank and Darrell Steien's. Nobody was around Orleans Grain and Darrell Stein is no longer selling seed.

WCA KCHD CSAH 6 & CSAH 30: Olson 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 a TEP meeting was held on August 11th. At the meeting, Corps and BWSR removed a few of the locations designated as wetlands by Aanenson, and added a few additional spots as well. Olson has not seen a completed application as of yet.

WCA Don Lund: DNR CO Jeremy Woinarowicz finally issued the Cease and Desist to Don Lund on July 18th. Lund says he was out and measured his site and he is most likely eligible for an after the fact permit application for the Wildlife exemption. However, Lund hasn't submitted an exemption request as of yet.

WCA Truscinski violation/Outdoor classroom: At the North end of our SWCD property, Alan Truscinski has done excavation on our SWCD property. Lawrence Puchalski, Dale Krystosek, Scott Johnson and Olson met on site with Truscinski on June 29th to decide if we send 1, 2 or 3 wetland restorations or collectively as 1. Krystosek asked Johnson to GPS the site, before any restoration orders take place. As of August 25th, Scott Johnson hadn't provided GPS points of the violation. On the separate violation along the South end of our property, Ron Mooney is in compliance with FSA, so I sent a Certificate of Satisfactory restoration to Truscinski for that violation.

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. Christensen will be up here the week of September 12th, and wants to meet on site with Olson and The Nature Conservancy staff as well.

WCA Ehlen violation: Charles Ehlen and Ron Anderson submitted an after the fact permit application for a wildlife exemption. Olson forwarded to BWSR's Dale Krystosek for comments on August 17th and comments are due by October 17th. Puchalski stated that this violation is past the statute of limitations for the Corps to have jurisdiction of.

WCA CP Rail: AECOM completed a wetland mitigation plan for CP Rail dated July 26th, 2011 to purchase wetland banking credits. CP Rail 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 Olson met on site with Railroad officials and AECOM employees on June 29th. Olson provided a notice of application on August 5th, for the project and it is currently under review with BWSR and the Corps of Engineers. CP Rail is hopeful they approve it soon as they would like to start construction start date of mid to late September.

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. Olson has not seen a completed application as of yet.

eLINK: eLINK is currently updated through July 31st.

Surveys: Olson also has one coming up for Merle Nelson, however Nelson he will call when he is ready for his project. The Board urged Olson to contact Nelson about the survey.

October Board meeting: The next regular scheduled Board meeting is October 13th at 7:15 AM.

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


Justin Dagen, Secretary