
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
August 18th, 2022

The meeting of the Two Rivers Plus Joint Powers Board was held at the Kittson County Courthouse and virtually.

The meeting was called to order by JPB Chair, Landon Olson at 9:04 a.m.

Joint Powers Board Members present: Primary: Landon Olson (RSWCD) and Daryl Wicklund (RCounty); Alternate: Theresia Gillie (KCounty) and Sam Anderson (KSWCD)

Others present: Jeremy Benson, Justin Muller, Janine Lovold, Shonda Jelle, Matt Fischer (BWSR),

Via Teams: Lindberg Ekola, Bethany Chaplin, Mitch Brinks (LSP Development Team)

Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion by Gillie, seconded by Anderson, and carried unanimously.

Minutes

The February 17th, 2022, Minutes were reviewed.

The Minutes were approved on a motion by Gillie, seconded by Anderson, and carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Janine Lovold and Shonda Jelle presented the Treasurer's Report. Stated there hasn't been many expenditures so far.

The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Wicklund, seconded by Gillie, and carried unanimously.

Office Supply Threshold Budget

Janine stated that she had a reconciliation meeting with Jeannette Austin (BWSR) on the Watershed-Based Funds and found that we need to set a monthly threshold for office supplies and categorized the purchase of the laptop and quick books software as such instead of equipment as the JPB can not own equipment. Discussion was had on what amount the monthly budget should be set. Agreement settled on \$1,000.00/month and if adjustments need to be made later we will.

Categorize the laptop and quick books software as office supplies and set the monthly Office Supply Threshold Budget at \$1,000.00 was approved on a motion by Gillie, seconded by Anderson, and carried unanimously.

Landscape Stewardship Plan

Jeremy Benson introduced the Landscape Stewardship Development Team that was hired by the Roseau SWCD to write the LSP, Lindberg Ekola (BWSR), Bethany Chaplin (Crow Wing SWCD), Mitch Brinks (MapsByMitch). Development Team gave presentation as to what exactly is a Landscape Stewardship Plan and how this plan can be used as a tool for the Steering Team to implement forest management plans on private land to achieve the water quality goals set in our 1W1P. Presented the drafted LSP to the JPB for comments. Comments are due back by September 5th so the Development Team can make the adjustments before the LSP meeting in October. Thanked Lindberg, Bethany and Mitch for giving the JPB an update on the progress of the LSP.

Non-Structural Land Management Program

- **3-Year Contract Exemption Request/ NSLM Policy Changes**

Jeremy state that on behalf of the JPB the Kittson SWCD requested an exemption to the 3-year contract duration requirement on non-structural land management practices in the Watershed Based Implementation Funding Policy. He contacted Justin Hanson, Assistant Director of Regional Operations of BWSR for the Northwest Area, explaining the reason for the request. Hanson and other BWSR staff including Matt Fischer, Henry Van Offelen and Ryan Hughes met to discuss the request. Hanson approved the exemption request. This allows the JPB to enter into 1, 2, or 3 year contract options. Jeremy presented a revised NSLM Policy to reflect this exemption.

Policy Changes:

Section 3.1 Base Rates

Increase Base Conservation Tillage Practice Rates from \$35/acre to \$50/acre

Section 5.1A Contract Length

Offer a Tiered Incentive Rate to promote multi-year contracts

1-year contracts= Base Rate

2-year contracts= Base Rate + \$10/acre

3-year contracts= Base Rate + \$20/acre

Section 4.1 Staff Skills

Technical Expertise language changed as NRCS staff is no longer able to sign contracts/ payment vouchers and Hallock NRCS Jim Schwab has retired.

Section 5.4 Contract Limitations

Contract limitations language clarified that land occupier is limited to one contract for each practice in any given year.

The changes to the Non-Structural Land Management Policy were approved on a motion by Gillie, seconded by Anderson, and carried unanimously.

- **Contract Cancellations**

Jeremy presented 3 contract cancellation requests pertaining to contract KWBF22-01, KWBF22-02, and KWBF22-05. Stated that the producers would like to cancel their contracts as the NSLM policy was tentative to change to allow 1-year options. Jeremy stated that the producers were fine with going through the paperwork process and paying back the amount they had already received for years 2 and 3 of their contracts.

The contract cancellations and allowing the ability for these producers to come back and sign up for a multi-year contract to receive the newly established payment rates while receiving credit for this first year were approved a motion by Gillie, seconded by Anderson, and carried unanimously.

- **On-going NSLM**

Jeremy presented 3 new contracts KWBF22-06, KWBF22-07, KWBF22-08. Stated these contracts haven't been sent out yet as was waiting for potential policy changes to occur before having producer's sign.

Two Rivers Plus JPB Project Request Updates

Jeremy shared that there are 3 projects on-going for streambank stabilizations and gully erosion sites. Working with TSA engineering staff to get a design and cost estimate put together before assigning contract numbers to the projects.

Roseau SWCD Well Water Clinic

Janine shared that the Roseau SWCD is hosting a Well Water Testing Clinic Thursday August 25th, 2022.

Next Board Meeting

November 17th, 2022 at 9:00AM

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am by a motion from Wicklund, seconded by Gillie, and carried unanimously.

Ufer D Gillie (alternate)
Secretary

11/17/2022
Date