

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District July 17th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: David Kiecker, Scott Balstad, and Ken Pederson.

Other's Present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Gabby Rodriguez, Joan Lee, Laura Schnapp, and Caden Osborn (NRCS Intern).

Meeting called to order at 8:43 am by Chairman Pederson

Approve the July 17, 2025 Agenda. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the June 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Balstad.

Financials:

Approve the June 2025 Financial & Treasurer's Reports, subject to revisions. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Balstad.

Old Business:

Gabby's 6 Month Review went well, and the Personnel Committee recommends the \$1/hour raise that was discussed at hire.

Approve the \$1/hour raise retroactive to June 23rd. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

New Business:

Approve encumbering funds for Rick Roed's WASCB project, CS-25-06. Total project cost is \$64,817.04. 90% cost share is \$58,335.31. This project will be funded by Clearwater 1W1P. Project is located in Brandsvold 6. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Balstad.

Approve encumbering funds for Philip Quams Well Sealing project, CS-25-20. Total project cost is \$3,769.00. 50% cost share is \$1,884.50. This project will be funded State Cost Share 2023. Project is for two wells located in Lessor 20. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Approve Partial payment for Jan Cronquist's Shoreline Restoration, CS-24-23. The invoice submitted was for \$3225.00. 75% cost share is \$2,418.75. Total encumbered amount was \$5,793.75 (\$7725 total). An additional \$4500 will be billed shortly. This application is funded by Soil Health Delivery 2025. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Balstad.

Approve delegating Rachel Klein to approve Cost Share Contract for Cover Crops Applications that follow the East Polk SWCD Soil Health Policy. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Soil Health Delivery Money: Expected Aug/Sept but need discussion on how to proceed if the funding doesn't come before the need. Previous discussions were had on using district funds for soil health projects if needed while we wait for the RCPP funding to come through. Approve using district funds for Soil Health if needed. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Reports:

EQUIP- I reached out to the unfunded applicants who had soil health practices included in their draft plans and told them to reach out to Gabby about the soil health RCPP. I hope this effort generates new cost share agreements for you all. Application cut-off dates have been announced for FY26 funding: Aug. 1, 2025

EQUIP and CSP practice inspections and certifications are ongoing.

New field visits for new conservation plans happening.

CRP- All E. Polk CRP offers submitted during the most recent sign-up were accepted (~25).

Those plans are starting to be built. Practice certifications and status reviews are ongoing.

There are 33 set to expire in 2027 that I'll see if the SWCD can help with field visits on.

Nationally- Critical Vacancy Process Phase 1. This is a voluntary reassignment opportunity with a short window to apply. I think decisions will be completed by the end of the month. I've heard that it won't likely effect NW MN much, if at all.

Discussion on NRCS engineered final designs submitted to SWCD for funding – Yes. Logan Handyside is happy to install projects designed by NRCS. This saves money on the technical and engineering for the SWCD.

Member Reports

Kiecker: Handled the two CDs that matured in the past month.

Pederson: Gabby's 6-month review.

Balstad: Gabby's 6-month review. Also talked to Al Bauer about the Cameron Lake project.

Staff Reports**Rachel:**

Meetings/Training:

- TEP Meeting with Steve

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and deposits
- Board meeting prep
- Lake Leader Sent Out
- Gabby's 6 Month Review
- DNR Ob Wells Year End Billing
- Project Financial Tracking

WCA:

- Inquires
- RLWD Permits
- Site Visit with DNR Wildlife

Other:

- Lake Monitoring
- Feedlot Registration Letter

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Feedlot CFO Webex
- Glacial Ridge CISMA

Buffers:

- Updating Country Records
- 1 new violation

Water Quality:

- Lake Monitoring
- SWAG Lake Monitoring
- Stream Monitoring & Lake Level

Feedlots:

- Registration Notices
- Newsletter
- Updating registrations

Other:

- Lake Leader
- WCA Site visit w/ Rachel and DNR
- Fair Booth
- Fair handouts
- Parsnip Education / landowner questions

Gabby:

Meetings/Training:

- Soil Health MOSH LGU Meeting
- No-Till Equipment Training
- Plant ID Training

Soil Health:

- Cover Crop Projects

Shoreline and Rain Garden:

- Project Management w/ MNL

Water Quality

- Lake Monitoring
- SWAG Lake Monitoring
- Stream Monitoring & Lake Level

Other:

- Lake Leaders

AgBMP Report: Accepting Applications!

Next Meeting August 21st, 2025 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:29 am by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Secretary

Date