

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District

April 17th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Other's Present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Gabby Rodriguez, Laura Schnapp, Brett Arne, Angie Shimp, Joan Lee, Logan Handyside, and Justin Muller

Meeting called to order at 8:32 am by Chairman Pederson

Approve the April 17, 2025 Agenda. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the March 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson.

Financials:

Approve the March 2025 Tresure Reports, subject to revisions. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson.

Old Business:

New Business:

Soil Health Update: Brett Arne provided an update the soil health RCPP funds that we applied for. The funds were supposed to be distributed in March but with the federal funding examinations currently ongoing the funding hasn't been approved by USDA to be released yet. Discussion was had on how to proceed with our current policy and current soil health cost share funding. The current policy and rates will be used. Rachel Klein still has authorization to approve no till applications if they meet our policy and practice standards since those applications are time sensitive.

North Pod Engineering Update: Logan Handyside and Justin Muller provided an update on the North Pod and East Polk's past and present projects. Discussion was had on policy for life expectancy of projects and how some districts are using incentives to get projects in the ground during the growing season.

Reports:

NRCS Report: EQIP FY25- 1 new application selected for funding. CSP FY25 Classic- 1 application selected for funding in E. Polk. I'm working on getting contract and plan docs put together. CSP FY26 renewal- no active contracts are up for renewal this year. A lot of time spent processing FSA HEL determination requests, generated by FSA through the imagery review process, along with completing admin. reviews on nutrient and pesticide management plans. We have a new acting team lead- Matt Waterworth, based out of Warren, MN. Since the last meeting I participated in a regenerative farming workshop in Grand Forks, a joint NRCS/SWCD meeting, the Glacial Ridge LTT meeting, and a nutrient management training.

BWSR Report: Brett Arne provided an update on the legislative session. It is expected that there will be some funding cuts. The SWCD Aid won't be impacted but we may see a decrease in funding for

competitive grants. NRBG Grants had a one year bump and this year they will return to the normal amount previously received.

Member Reports

Kiecker: No Report

Pederson: No Report

Vettleson: No Report

Balstad: RRVCSA Meeting

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- NRCS Communication Meeting
- Turtle Cross Connection Meeting
- WCA Training
- SHR 1W1P Advisory Meeting
- MPCA-DNR Watershed Approach Work SHRW
- TEP Meeting with Steve
- Clearwater 1W1P Workgroup Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and deposits
- Board meeting prep
- Lake Leader Review

Projects:

- NRCS & North Pod project meeting – Kroening
- Landowner Project Meetings
- Shoreline Restoration & Rain Garden Project Review
- Project Requests
 - o Gary Sonsteile
 - o Caleb Briard

WCA:

- Inquires
- RLWD Permits
- Restoration Order Prep

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Feedlot CFO Webex
- AIS Detectors (U of M) Webinars
- Glacial Ridge LTT Meeting

Trees:

- Taking Orders
- Tree order reduction
- Invoices & Sale Tracking

Water Quality:

- Meeting with Scott (MPCA) for Lake Sarah Stream Monitoring

Other:

- Website Update

- Spring Newsletter Design draft
- CISMA Planning
- Cover Crop Sign Drafts

Gabby:

Meetings/Training:

- NRCS Communications Meeting
- Cover Crop Technical Trainings
- Glacial Ridge LTT Meeting
- MOSH LGU Call
- AIS Meeting

Other:

- Shoreline/Rain Garden Program
- Soil Health Practice Contracts for JAA

AgBMP Report: Accepting Applications!

Other/Open Discussion:

- Cameron Lake Project and the Outlet Issues
- Cross/Connection/Turtle RLWD Project

Next Meeting May 15, 2025 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 11:00 am by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Secretary

Date