

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District January 16th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: David Kiecker, Kory Sonsteli, Larry Vettleson and Ken Pederson

Other's Present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Gabby Rodriguez, Brett Arne, & Joan Lee

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

Reorganization of the Board

Officers:

Chairman: Ken Pederson

Vice Chairman: Kory Sonsteli

Treasurer: Dave Kiecker

Secretary: Scott Balstad

PR/Equipment: Larry Vettleson

Motion to approve the reorganization of the board. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson

District Representatives:

Personnel Committee (2 members): Ken Pederson & Scott Balstad

RRVCSA (1 member with alternate): Scott Balstad

AgBMP (1 member): Scott Balstad

LWMP/Water Plan (1 member): Kory Sonsteli

Property Committee (2 members): Dave Kiecker & Larry Vettleson

Policy Committee (2 members): Scott Balstad & Larry Vettleson

AIS (1 member): Ken Pederson

Motion to approve the district representative positions. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson.

Motion to approve January 16, 2025 Agenda. Motion by Sonsteli, Seconded by Vettleson.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the December 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Sonsteli.

Financials:

Approve the December 2024 Financial & Tresure Reports, subject to revisions. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Kiecker.

Old Business:

New Business:

Designate the McIntosh Times as the Official Newspaper. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonsteli.

Designate First National Bank as Official Depository. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonsteli.

Designate Day, Time, and Location for Monthly Meetings. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment of the MASWCD Dues of \$5,452.87. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment of the MCIT Insurance Premium of \$7,898.00. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment of the RRVCSA Local Match Requirement of \$2,313.00. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Annual Planning Meeting: Scheduled for February 13th, 2025 following the Regular Meeting.

Approve IRS Mileage Rate. Effective January 1, 2025, rate is .70 cents per mile. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson.

Approve authorization of adding Gabriela to the Bank for signing checks. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment for CS-24-22, Don Carlson's WASCOD project. Total project cost is \$44,539.02. 75% cost share is \$33,404.27. The encumbered amount was \$33,324.16. Payment amount is \$33,324.16. This project is funded by Clearwater 1W1P. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson.

Approve payment for CS-24-05, Wayne Olson's WASCOD project. Total project cost is \$24,001.41. 75% cost share is \$18,001.06. The encumbered amount was \$21,453.95. This project is funded by Clearwater 1W1P. Motion by Sonstelie, Seconded by Vettleson.

Approve payment for CS-24-06, Wayne Olson's WASCOD project. Total project cost is \$22,597.73. 75% cost share is \$16,948.30. Encumbered amount was \$19,147.89. This project is funded by Clearwater 1W1P. Motion by Sonstelie, Seconded by Vettleson.

Approve encumbering funds for Cost Share Contract CS-25-01 for Brian Anderson's 40 acres of cover crop. Total project amount is \$1600. This project will be funded by Soil Health Delivery Grant. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson.

Clothing: Approve \$200 per employee for clothing for this year. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Kiecker.

Reports:

NRCS Report: EQIP FY25- Application assessments completed for sign up 1. Of the 45 applications, 30 were assessed and 28 ranked. Estimated contract values > \$5.3 million. I expect to start hearing about preapprovals soon. I don't know how much the NW Area is starting with, but I know we'll use all the initial allocation, and we'll ask for more.

CSP FY25 Classic- 16 application on file to be assessed and ranked by 3-21-25.

The Crookston Customer Service Team Lead position flew in December. It closed 12-31-2025.

E. Polk Local Work Group- We held it mid-April in 2024 and early May in 2023. I know it's a little early to talk about setting a date, but I think it'd be great to send an email reminder to folks on the mailing list, perhaps with last years report, to get people thinking about it. See the attached Factsheet developed by the state office, addressing several of the most FAQs from the

2024 LWG meetings. This could also be shared in an early reminder to help increase participation.

BWSR Report: Brett Arne presented the East Polk SWCD office a plaque for recognition of 80 years of bringing water management and conservation to the people and the lands of East Polk County. Discussion was also had on the third round of RCPP Soil Health dollars that are coming soon. This pot of money will need to have very strict JAA and following NRCS policies.

Member Reports

Kiecker: No Report

Pederson: No Report

Sonsteli: No Report

Vettleson: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- MOSH LGU Meeting (soil health)
- East Polk Crop Improvement Meeting
- Clearwater 1W1P Meeting
- Soil Health Meeting with Clearwater

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and board meeting prep
- Fall Newsletter: Sent out
- New Employee Orientation

WCA:

- TEP with Steve Hofstad
- NOD on Replacement Plan for Oak Lake Sent out

Feedlots:

- Inspections

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Feedlot CFO Webex
- East Polk Crop Improvement Meeting
- Soil Health Meeting with Clearwater

Trees:

- Taking Orders
- Invoices & Sale Tracking

Water Quality:

- Rainfall data
- Lake data submittal

Other:

- Website Updates
- Fall Newsletter
 - o Printing
 - o Folding

Gabby:

Meetings/Training:

- MOSH LGU Meeting (soil health)
- East Polk Crop Improvement Meeting
- Soil Health Meeting with Clearwater

Water Monitoring:

- Rainfall Data Submitted

Other:

- New Employee Orientation
- Training Videos
- Updated Newsletter Mailing List with the returned

AgBMP Report: Accepting Applications!

Other Discussion

Next Meeting February 13, 2025 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:04 am by Sonstelie, Second by Vettleson.

Secretary

Date