

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District November 21st, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Other's Present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson and Luara Schnapp

Meeting called to order at 8:36 am by Chairman Pederson

Motion to approve November 21, 2024 Agenda. Motion by Sonstelie, Seconded by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the October 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Sontelie, Seconded by Kiecker.

Financials:

Approve the October 2024 Financial & Tresure Reports, subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Old Business:

Audit Update: Approve and Sign the Management Letter. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Sonstelie.

New Business:

Approve payment for CS-24-16, Mike Voxland's two well sealings. Total project cost \$2250.00 (well #1 - \$875 & well #2 - \$1375). Total encumbered amount was \$1125.00. 50% of the total project cost is \$1125.00. This project is funded by Conservation Contracts 2024. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment for CS-24-07 Darrell Donnell's well sealing. Total project cost \$1000.00. Total encumbered amount was \$500.00. 50% of the total project cost is \$500.00. This project is funded by State Cost Share 2022. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment for CS-24-21 John Rusten's two well sealings. Total project cost \$2000.00 (each well \$1000.00). Total encumbered amount was \$1000.00. 50% of the total project cost is \$1000.00. This project is funded by State Conservation Contracts 2024. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve encumbering funds for Jan Cronquist's Shoreline Restoration project, CS-24-23. Total project cost is \$7,725.00. This project will be funded by the Soil Health Delivery Grant at 75%. Total encumbered amount is \$5,793.75. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Approve the replacement plan for Oak Lake Housing Development pending any comments on the application. This project is proposing to impact .1253 acres of wetland with the construction of widening the road to access the sites to meet Polk County requirements. They are required to replace at a 2/1 ratio and the total credits being purchased will be .2506. This application is currently in the comment period. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Water Resource Technician Position Applicants were reviewed. Interviews are set for November 27th. Approve designating the Personnel Committee to compile an offer and offer employment. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Kory.

Balstad proposed that we should put more funds into CDs and proposes that we do two \$100,000 CDs. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonsteli.

Reports:

NRCS Report: Contract administration- practice certification is in full swing still, but more than ½ way there.

FY25 program roll out trainings recently held. The state received its initial allocation: \$65.7M for EQIP. Last year we spent ~\$94.7M, \$30M of that came specifically through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). ~37% of the applications were funded statewide.

EQIP FY25- I am starting to begin planning and processing applications. 45 received for sign up 1 with a ranking deadline of 1-10-25.

CSP FY25 Classic- application cut off was 11-15-24. We received 4 new applications since the last deadline, for a total of 16 applications to be considered for FY25 funding.

RCPP FY25 application deadline is 12-16-24. The RCPPs that cover E. Polk with the deadline is the 1W1P RCPP. Lands within the Red Lake River 1W1P boundaries will be considered for this fund pool.

I'm learning more about Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA). New for FY25 is a project awarded to BWSR to implement soil health practices. They were awarded \$25M and have invested \$25M. E. Polk is included in this project area. A joint BWSR/NRCS kickoff meeting will be held 1-21-25. There are several other AFAs that were recently awarded that cover parts of MN. More will be revealed.

Member Reports

Kiecker: No Report

Pederson: SHRWD Advisory Meeting & Area 1 Meeting

Sonsteli: No Report

Balstad: SHRWD Advisory Meeting

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- BWSR Academy
- Sand Hill 1W1P Workgroup Meeting
- AgBMP Training – New Online Tracking System
- Area 1 Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and board meeting prep
- 3rd Quarter Invoices
- Fall Newsletter
- Position Announcement & Interview Prep
- RIM Inspections Prep
- Engineering Project Review

WCA:

- TEP with Steve Hofstad
- Multiple Inquiries & Site Visits

Feedlots:

- Inspection Prep

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Feedlot CFO Webex
- AgBMP Loan Link Training
- Planner Certification Training - Area 1
- Area 1 Meeting
- BWSR Academy

Buffers:

- Logging status changes and verifying statuses of potential violations

Trees:

- Printing order forms
- Landowner questions

Water Quality:

- Stream Monitoring data review and submission
- Lake Levels
- Rainfall data

Other:

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

AgBMP Report: Now expecting applications.

Other Discussion: Public Water Inventory Update from Klein that was presented at the Area 1 Meeting.

Next Meeting December 19, 2024 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:37 am by Sontelie, Second by Kiecker.

Secretary

Date