

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District
June 18, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Other's Present: Rachel Klein, Gabby Rodriguez, Jenna Simonson, Jonah Donais, Laura Schnapp, Moriya Rufer, Joan Lee, and Patty Johnson.

Meeting called to order at 8:27 am by Chairman Pederson

Approve June 18, 2026 Agenda. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the May 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Financials:

Approve the May 2026 Financial Report & Treasure's report, subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Vettleson.

Old Business:

New Business:

Approve amending Don Magnusson's Rain Garden, CS-24-14, Payment payable from the SHR 1W1P from \$7,950 to \$3,497.48. The remaining amount of \$4,458.52 will come from SWCD Aid. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Vettleson.

Approve CS-26-40 for Alex Ranz's Shoreline Project. Total project cost is \$54,340.32 total cost share eligible items cost is \$43,245. Encumbered amount is \$20,000 as stated in the East Polk SWCD Soil Health Priority Policy as the maximum. This project will be funded by the SHR 1W1P. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Vettleson.

Approve CS-26-41 for Dan Geist Shoreline Project. Total project cost is \$20,945.50 75% cost share and encumbered is amount is \$15,709.13. This project will be funded by the SHR 1W1P. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Vettleson.

Reports:

NRCS: EQIP- All participants selected for funding have obligated contracts. 2 grazing systems, 3 cropland systems, & 3 wildlife habitat plans. This covers 2,261 acres for ~\$1.3 million. One of the cropland agreements will be administered out of Thief River Falls since that's where most of the land is located and 2 include engineering practices. I heard we may get more applications selected for funding.

CSP- Five applicants selected for funding so far. All, but 1 is in a cropland system. Estimated agreement value is ~\$1.78 million. Those agreements should be signed and obligated within a couple of weeks.

CRP- I've asked for help with this workload and it seems like it'll be provided. I haven't been in the field much, but that should change soon.

Member Reports

Kiecker: No Report
Pederson: No Report
Balstad: No Report
Vettleson: No Report
Sonstelie: No Report

Staff Reports**Rachel:**

Meetings/Training:

- AgBMP Training
- New BC Meeting/Project Review Meeting
- Area 1 Meeting
- Englestad Farms Feedlot Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and deposits
- Board meeting prep
- Projects: Site Visits with Logan
- Quarter 1 Billing
- Supervisor Q1 pay

WCA:

- Two Notice of Decisions: Gemini Solar Delineation
- TEP Meeting with Steve
- Site Visits

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- CFO Webex
- Area 1 meeting

Buffers:

Trees:

Water Quality:

- Data Review and Reporting to DNR

Feedlots:

- Site Inquiry
- ArcMap for County

Other:

- Lake Leader Draft
- WCA Inquiry Maps

Gabby:

Meetings/Trainings:

- SHR 1W1P Meeting
- JAA Review Meeting
- Area 1 Meeting

Soil Health:

- Soil Health Contracts, Mapping, and Paperwork
- No-Till Checks

Shoreline and Rain Gardens:

- 4 Shoreline Evaluations

- 2 Project Requests

Water Quality:

- SWAG Lake Monitoring
- Lake Monitoring

Jonah:

- Area 1 Meeting
- WCA Site Visits
- Englestad Farms Feedlot Meeting
- Stream Monitoring
- Lake Levels
- SWAG Lake Monitoring
- Lake Monitoring Prep

AgBMP Report: Two application submitted, both were for the same feedlot upgrade.

Open Discussion: Patty Johnson from the Union Lake Sarah Improvement District discussed water quality concerns. Jenna Simonson reviewed the data that indicates that Lake Sarah's water quality is stable and that there is extensive data on the lake. It was requested that the SWCD begin monitoring Lake Sarah again. The SWCD prioritizes monitoring lakes with limited data or impaired lakes. Lake Sarah does not meet these criteria. The Lake Improvement District can monitor the lake and the SWCD can be the drop off location for the lab. Pending the updated WRAPS the SWCD would be willing to do a more comprehensive water monitoring study of Lake Sarah if the MPCA proposed a Surface Water Agreement Grant for that.

Next Meeting July 23rd, 2026 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:14 am by Balstad, Seconded by Sonsteli.

	<u>July 23, 2026</u>
Secretary	Date