

East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 15th, 2021 at 8:30am

***This meeting will be held in the conference room with a Zoom meeting option for participants ***

Board members present: Ken Pederson, Dave Kiecker, Scott Balstad, Larry Vettleson, and Kory Sonsteli

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Marea Schommer, Jenna Wiersma, Joan Lee, Jenny Burrack, and Bryan Malone

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am by Chairman Pederson.

Motion to approve April 15, 2021 Agenda. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

Financials:

Approve the March 2021 Financial Report subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson, to approve the financial report.

Approve the February 2021 Treasurer Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Sonsteli to approve the treasurers report.

Old Business:

Vesledahl Wetland Bank – Rachel provided a brief update that BWSR and MnDOT are still holding meetings and trying to prepare the site to be potentially sold.

Area 1 TSA Staffing Issues – Balstad provided a report on the last RRVCSA Meeting he attended. Balstad voted against moving forward with the plan to separate the funds amongst all the districts in Area 1. As it was presented, the TSA will still be paying for the surveying equipment and licensing. If only a handful of districts are going to have access to the equipment and software those expenses should be removed from the budget and not be covered by the TSA. Bryan Malone, Becker SWCD, joined the meeting at 9am to answer any questions. Bryan provided that in the budget they have \$34,000 for new equipment, \$2,400 for GPS software, and \$8,500 for AutoCAD. The Board's recommendation for the RRVCSA Executive Committee Meeting, to be held on April 28, 2021, is that Mary's position and the ArcGIS software be kept in the TSA budget, but the Equipment and Licensing expenses related to the engineering be removed due to not all district not having access to the equipment and software once everyone splits off. The districts that choose to combine and have shared engineering staff should be responsible for providing their own equipment and software.

New Business:

Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad to approve encumbering funds from State Cost Share 2018 for Christopher Engelstad well sealing CS-18-9. Total estimate = \$800, 50% cost share = \$400.

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Motion by Kiecker, Second by Sonstelie to approve MN Joint Application for Ag Wetland Replacement for Russell Wilson at 1:1. Total credits to be purchased = .8. This application qualifies for 1:1 replacement due to an agricultural exemption. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Sonstelie

Motion by Vettleson, Second by Sonstelie, to approve MN Joint Application for Ag Wetland Replacement for Jay Giroto, Palmer Farms at 1:1. Total credits to be purchased = 2.55. This application qualifies for 1:1 replacement due to an ag exemption.

Reports:

NRSC Report: Jenny accepted the Area Program Specialist with NRCS for the NW area. She will be starting May 5, 2021. They will be hiring for her position, but she wasn't sure when that would be. They finished EQIP and only had two applications get funded.

Member Reports

Pederson: Attended the legislative update provided by MASWCD.

Sonstelie: No report

Balstad: Attended the RRVCSA meeting.

Kiecker: Talked to the Mayor of McIntosh about our rent and Dave reported that the city is happy with what they are getting.

Vettleson: Attended a public hearing on the redetermination of benefits on JD 22. The next meeting will be June 24th at 2pm at the McIntosh Community Center.

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- Northern TSA Meeting
- Glacial Ridge LLT
- TEP Meetings with Steve
- Clearwater 1W1P Planning Work Group Meeting
- TSA Area 1 Staffing Meeting
- AgBMP Meeting
- WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- WRWD 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
- RRVCSA Meeting
- Feedlot NW Area Meeting

Admin:

- MAWQCP Quarter 1 Invoice
- Supervisor Quarter 1 Checks

WCA:

- 2 new Inquiries
- 3 Notice of Decisions sent out.

- 2 Restoration Orders sent out.

Feedlots:

- Re-Registration

Marea:

Meetings/Trainings:

- WCA TEP Meeting
- WCA Training Webinars
- Engineering Training with Roy Holmes

Buffers:

- 6 site visits
- 1 Validation of Compliance

ArcGIS:

- Wetland Setback Maps
- Wetland Elevation Survey

Other:

- Tree Orders
- Rainfall Monitoring
- Lake Leader

Jenna: Started April 5th

Meetings/Trainings:

- TEP Meetings
- Glacial Ridge LLT
- Engineering Training with Roy Holmes
- Wetland elevation survey

Trees:

- Reviewing tree order forms and varieties.

Buffers:

- Assisted Marea in site visits.
- Lake Leader

AgBMP Report: None

Open/Other Discussion

Next Meeting May 20th, 2021 at 8:30am

Adjourn 10:09am. Motion by Vettleon, Second by Sonsteliie.

Secretary

Date