

**East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District
December 6th, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Other's present: Marea Gryskiewicz, Rachel Klein, Simonson, Laura Schnapp, and Brett Arne

Meeting called to order at 8:39 am by Chairman Sonstelie

Motion to approve December 6th, 2022 Agenda. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

Secretary's Report:

Approve November 17th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Pederson, Second by Kiecker.

Financials:

Approve the November 2022 Financial Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Pederson, Second by Balstad.

Approve the November 2022 Treasurer Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Pederson, Second by Balstad.

Old Business:

Vesledahl Wetland Bank – No Update

Area 1 TSA – Balstad provided an updated on the most recent TSA Meeting. Jeff Haverland has not signed the employment agreement to transfer employment from the TSA to Pennington SWCD. A date of December 16th was set to sign the agreement by otherwise his employment will be terminated with the TSA as of December 31st. Mahnomon has not signed the North Pod Agreement. Their December board meeting will be held the 16th. Approve the Amended JPA For the RRVCSA & to proceed with the Engineering Service Agreement with 8 SWCDs if Mahnomon does not approve it at their December Meeting. Motion by Balstad, Second by Pederson.

Rainfall Monitoring – Tabled.

New Business:

Balstad and Pederson provided an update on the evaluations that they went well. They would like to see better communication. They also provided an update that Marea and Jenna will be added to the insurance plan starting January 1, 2023. Rachel provided information on the premiums and what other districts are providing to their employees. Paying employee premiums is the most cost-effective way for the district and the employees are all interested in being on/remaining on the offered health insurance plan.

Employee Evaluations Recommendations

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| - Rachel: Current Rate - \$27.25 | Increase: \$1/hr |
| - Marea: Current Rate - \$21.80 | Increase: \$1/hr |
| - Jenna: Current Rate - \$18.50 | Increase: \$2/hr |

Approve the pay increases, starting January 1, 2023. Motion by Pederson, Seconded by Balstad.

Approve payment to Pederson Company for our audit totaling \$3,000. Motion by Vettleson, Second by, Balstad.

Disaster Funds – Letter to Legislators: Brett Arne, BWSR, provided an update on the disaster funds and how we should proceed to get access to disaster funds from the spring flooding. It is forecasted that the state will have a \$12 billion surplus. Disaster funds needed reported to BWSR is around \$11 million. Our office will draft a letter and send it to the legislators expressing our need for the disaster funds. Motion by Pederson, Seconded by Balstad.

Soil Health Cost Share Policy: \$14,175. This money came from the General Fund and will be available for at least two years. This is the first new program to come from the general fund in about 5yrs. Some examples of what this program can be used for including: tree plantings, shoreline restorations, cover crops, etc. The board would like to see what other districts are doing before setting policy. Brett can provide that information. Motion to table this until next month by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Approve payment to Mike Affeldt for his WASCOD repairs in Sletten 3. Contract CS-20-01. Total cost is \$27,200, \$19,635 amount coming from EQIP, and \$2,000 cost share. Funds will be coming from State Cost Share 20 and 21. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Pederson.

Approve posting the Intern Position Announcement and list the pay range of \$15-\$17. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Vettleson.

Clearwater 1W1P: Discussion was had on the Clearwater 1W1P. Currently there is still about \$60,000 left in the planning grant that is being used to have Houston Engineering complete a Workload analysis. It is anticipated that the Implementation Grant will be available in March of 2023. Maps of targeted areas were reviewed that were completed by Houston Engineering using the PTMapp to find the targeted areas and identify what projects would be the most beneficial. We can start outreach, but we cannot charge any of those hours to the planning grant. It was discussed that doing a targeted mailing would be the best. There is also a folder of potential projects that Rachel has been collecting when the requests come in. NRCS will also start spreading the word.

Earl Roed WCA Violation: Discussion was had on the engineering fees and who would pay for those. Approve paying for the engineering cost for the violation restoration design. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Vettleson.

Reports:

NRCS: Been working on inspecting and certifying 2022 practices. EQIP applications will be reviewed soon. There is no screening tool this year. The next CSP deadline is February 10, 2023.

Member Reports

Kiecker: Attended the WCA Landowner Meeting

Pederson: SHRWD Advisory Meeting & Employee Evals

Balstad: Attended the Executive Meeting for the TSA, the TSA Meeting, AgBMP Meeting, and Employee Evals.

Sonsteli: No report

Vettleson: No report

Staff Report:

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- TSA Meeting
- Executive Committee Meeting (TSA)

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Employee Evaluations
- Preparing for reporting

WCA:

- TEP Meeting (x2)
- One Notice of Decision for Delineation Concurrence
- Landowner Meeting

Feedlot:

- Entered Inspections into TEMPO

Marea:

Meetings/Trainings:

- WCA TEP Meeting
- Side Water Inlet Webinar

WCA:

- Earl Roed Grade Maps

Shoreline:

- 1 finished project

WASCOB:

- 1 design in East Polk County

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Feedlot Inspection Checklist Training
- Feedlot Inspection Training w/ Rachel (x2)
- Tempo Training w/ Rachel

Buffers:

- New imagery – off site reviews
- 3 parcels entering compliance

Feedlots:

- CFO Webinar (x2)
- Newsletter
- Inspections

Trees:

- Order forms mailed out
- Accepting orders
- Invoices created for orders
- 2023 spreadsheet created

Other:

- Lake Levels

AgBMP Report:

Balstad provided a report on the AgBMP meeting last week. There is a waitlist again, but the program keeps getting additional money from amendments allowing us to fund applications quicker. With interest rates close to 8% it is anticipated that the demand for these loans will continue to grow.

Other/Open Discussion

Next Meeting January 19th, 2023 at 8:30am.

Motion to adjourn at 10:24 am by Pederson, Second by Kiecker.

Secretary

Date