

**East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District
February 16th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

Board members present: Ken Pederson, Dave Kiecker, and Scott Balstad

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Joan Lee, Luther Newton, and Laura Schnapp

Meeting called to order at 8:40 am by Vice Chairman Pederson

Motion to approve February 16, 2023 Agenda. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve January 19th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Financials:

Approve the January 2023 Financial Reports and Treasure Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Old Business:

Vesledahl Wetland Bank: No Update. Rachel will reach out to BWSR for an update for next month.

North Pod Meeting (TSA): Scott, Rachel, and Marea attended the first north pod meeting in Thief River Falls. With Jeff not signing the agreement for his employment to be transferred the North Pod discussed hiring to fill his position. The groups recommendation to the Pennington SWCD board was that they advertise for an Engineer and an Engineer Technician. The workload analysis shows that the North TSA Pod should have the workload for an additional engineer or engineer technician.

Rainfall Monitoring: Jenna is in the process of contacting and setting new volunteers up.

Soil Health Cost Share Policy: Rachel presented what other SWCD's were doing for this program and discussion was had one how to prioritize projects for this grant.

- Priority 1: Shoreline Restorations and Rain Gardens at 50% cost share with a total project maximum of \$20,000.
- Priority 2: Other Soil Health Practices, including but not limited to, cover crops, windbreaks, and other typical soil health practices, at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors.

Approve the Cost Share Policy for the Soil Health Cost Share Grant. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

New Business:

Approve moving encumbered funds for Scott Lundberg's Shoreline Restoration from Capacity 2021 to Capacity 2022. Total cost is \$6,820, 50% cost share is \$3410. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Reports:

NRCS Report: Laura Schnapp

EQIP- Assessment and rankings for sign-up 1 were completed ahead of the deadline. I am waiting to see who gets selected for funding, which should come this week. Obligation deadline is April 28th. A 2nd signup has not been announced, but 3 additional applications (1 new since last report) were received

after signup 1 deadline. CSP renewal- 3 contracts are set to expire this year and will be eligible for renewal. Those folks are aware of application deadline. CSP Classic- 45 applications on file. 12 have been selected as high priority and will be assessed/ranked. While the ranking deadline for these isn't until May 19, I have begun setting appts to assess applications.

A bulletin came out announcing deadlines and guidance for the annual local workgroup meeting. Last year it was held on July 6. I will work with Rachel on selecting a date and perhaps it can be completed before field work begins this year.

Member Reports

Balstad: Attended the North Pod Meeting & The East Polk Crop Improvement Meeting

Pederson: No Report

Kiecker: Attended The East Polk Crop Improvement Meeting

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- North Pod First Meeting
- SWAG Meeting
- SHRWD Board Meeting – Lake Monitoring Contract Update
- Envirothon Planning Meeting
- MAWQCP Update with Glen
- East Polk Crop Improvement Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Reporting finished
- Internship Announcement Sent Out and Closed February 10th.
- Disaster Funding Letter Sent
- Annual Planning Meeting Prep

WCA:

- One Notice of Decision for Delineation Concurrence – Cross Lake Campground
- Inquiries on 2 parcels and a wetland bank question

Feedlot:

- Year-end review prep

Marea:

Meetings/Trainings:

- TSA North Pod Meeting
- WASCOB Review with Logan Handyside
- WASCOB Training Fergus Falls

WASCOB:

- 1 design in East Polk County
- 2 Mahnomen County

Other

- 2023 Lake Leader
- MN Geologic Atlas

Jenna:

Buffers:

- Desktop reviews

Feedlots:

- CFO Webinar

Trees:

- Accepting orders
- 43 orders (2260 trees sold)
- Clearwater SWCD – 3 different planters
 - o \$30 – half day
 - o \$50 – full day

Other:

- Rainfall Data
 - o Need Volunteers for: Columbia, Queen
 - o Ordered Supplies for New Rainfall People

AgBMP Report: Matt Schow, Agco White Planter: \$85,000

Other/Open Discussion

Next Meeting March 16th, 2023 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:15 am by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Scott Balstad March 16, 2023
Secretary Date

