

**East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District  
January 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

Board members present: Al Bauer, Ken Pederson, Dave Kiecker, Larry Vettleson and Scott Balstad

Other's present: Marea Schommer, Nicole Bernd, Rachel Klein, Joan Lee and Jenny Burrack

Meeting called to order at 8:34 am by Chairman Bauer

Motion to Approve the January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Agenda: Pederson, Second: Kiecker. Discussion was had that the board did not like the layout of the new agenda and would prefer this layout not be used.

**Reorganization:**

Officers:

Chairman: Ken Pederson  
Treasurer: Dave Kiecker  
Secretary: Scott Balstad  
PR & I: Larry Vettleson  
Vice Chairman: Al Bauer

Motion by Balstad and seconded by Bauer to approved East Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors for 2020.

District Representatives for 2020 as follows:

PR/Equipment Committee (2 members): Vettleson, Balstad  
Personnel Committee (2 members): Pederson, Bauer  
RRVCSA/ TSA Representative (1 member with alternate): Balstad  
AgBMP Representative (1 member): Vettleson  
Water Resource Advisory Committee (1 member): Kiecker  
Property Committee (2 members): Bauer, Kiecker  
Policy Committee (2 members): Balstad, Vettleson  
AIS Representative (1 member, 1 alternate): Pederson, Bauer

Motion by Balstad and seconded by Vettleson to approve East Polk SWCD Board of Supervisors committee representatives for 2020.

**Secretary's Report:**

Approve December 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Vettleson and seconded by Pederson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on December 19, 2019.

The December financial reports were reviewed. Motion by Balstad and seconded by Kiecker to approve the financial reports, subject to audits and revisions.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Approve the December 2019 Financial Reports. Motion by Kiecker and seconded by Vettleson to approve the treasurers report.

Staff request approval to designate First National Bank of McIntosh as the official depository.

Motion by Vettleson and seconded by Pederson to approve the designation of the First National Bank of McIntosh as the official depository.

Staff reported the designation of bank accounts as of January 1, 2020 as follows:

Checking Account: First National Bank of McIntosh Acct # xxx0054

Certificates of Deposits: First National Bank of McIntosh Acct # x4624, x4625, x4911

Motion by Pederson and seconded by Kiecker to approve the designation of bank accounts.

Staff requests a motion to approve the Board of Supervisors and District Manager the power to transact business of the First National Bank of McIntosh.

Motion by Kiecker and seconded by Vettleson to approve the Board of Supervisors and District Manager the power to transact business at First National Bank of McIntosh.

**State Cost Share:**

Priority cost share practices for state cost money shall be designated for the year 2020.

1 WASCOB (368)

2 Well Sealing

3 Field Windbreaks

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Staff request approval to pay MASWCD 2020 dues in the amount of \$ 2,982.40.

Motion by Bauer and seconded by Balstad to approve payment to MASWCD 2020 dues in the amount of \$2,982.40.

IRS Mileage Rate for 2020 is \$.57.5/mile. Effective January 1, 2020.

Motion by Bauer and seconded by Balstad to approve IRS Mileage Rate for 2020 is \$.57.5/mile. Effective January 1, 2020.

The Board discussed the designation of a district newspaper as the McIntosh Times.

Motion by Vettleson and seconded by Kiecker to designate the McIntosh Times as the official district newspaper.

The board made the following motion to designate the day of the month, time of day and location of the monthly board meetings.

Motion by Vettleson and seconded by Kiecker to designate the third Thursday of each month as the official board meeting day. The meetings shall start at 8:30 am and will be held at the East Polk SWCD District Office.

The District's 2020 insurance premiums from MN County Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) are due in the total amount of \$5,918.00.

Motion by Vettleson and seconded by Kiecker to approve the payment to Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust in the amount of \$5,918.00.

Employee evaluations. Discussion.

2020 Intern. Discussion.

**Reports:**

**NRCS Report**

A Soil Con Technician Job was offered to 2 people, but so much time has passed, that they already took two other jobs. This resulted in the position not being filled. What happened is that our human resource personal are understaffed and have the workload of 3 people and just couldn't get the work done. Supposedly it is better now. The SCT job was supposed to be re-advertised but was mistakenly opened in ADA, instead. They let it stand and still plan on opening a technician job in McIntosh soon. So maybe with in a couple months.

I lost help when Wade Jackson transferred to the Bagley office, so I am pretty much on my own now.

It has been a "perfect storm" for MN NRCS CSP payments problems the last year. The Office of Management and Budget had problems issuing MN the \$ to CSP accounts, and then they were in the wrong account, and some other technical things I don't understand happened beyond our control. MN NRCS ended up working long hours trying to make the payments to the producers who wanted it 2019, and it was all hands-on deck. It turned out well. I made around 42 CSP payments in our county for over \$600,000 and helped other counties on their workload during the crunch. It was a busy but a productive time. I still have more payments to make, but I am waiting on the producers.

The 2020 EQIP and CSP sign up period end dates have not been announced but you can come in and sign up anytime. I predict it will be very competitive, I have had a lot of interest and will start moving on the application soon to try to get ahead on the planning part. No word on how much money MN has for the programs.

The general CRP program is open now until February 28<sup>th</sup>, rental rates are \$47-\$93, most people who are trying to get in have land expiring, there were about 4 new fields, according to FSA.

We have new computer systems out for mapping, planning and ranking applications and it is going to be an interesting spring, to say the least.

MN NRCS an area meeting Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, and I hope to have more details on programs then, and a state all employees meeting Feb 25-27<sup>th</sup> at Cragun's resort that should give answers too.

### Member Reports

### Staff Reports

#### **Klein: Returns to work January 27th**

- Updating BuffCat
- WCA & Feedlot year end reporting

#### **Schommer:**

- Finished buffer compliance tracking sheet
- Locating wells for the Geologic Atlas Survey
- Entering rainfall data into the MNGage archive
- Tree Orders

### Other/Open Discussion

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 by Vettleison and Seconded by Balstad

Scott Balstad      Feb 20, 2020  
Chairman                      Date

Secretary