

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District January 18th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Marea Gryskiewicz, Jenna Simonson, Joan Lee, and Laura Schnapp

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

Reorganization of the Board

Officers

Chairman: Ken Pederson

Vice Chairman: Kory Sonsteli

Secretary: Scott Balstad

Treasurer: Dave Kiecker

PR&I: Larry Vettleson

Motion to approve the reorganization of the board. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

District Representatives

Personnel Committee (2 members): Ken Pederson & Scott Balstad

RRVCSA/TSA Representative (1 member with alternate): Scott Balstad

AgBMP Representative (1 member): Scott Balstad

Local Water Management/1W1P (1 member): Kory Sonsteli

Property Committee (2 members): Dave Kiecker & Larry Vettleson

Policy Committee (2 members): Scott Balstad & Larry Vettleson

AIS Representative (1 member): Ken Pederson

Motion to approve the district representative positions. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Motion to approve January 18, 2024 Agenda. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Secretary's Report:

Approve December 19th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Kiecker.

Financials:

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

Old Business:

New Business:

Designate the McIntosh Times as the Official Newspaper. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Designate First National Bank as Official Depository. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Designate Day, Time, and Location for Monthly Meetings. Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 8:30am located at the East Polk SWCD Conference Room. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Approve the MASWCD Dues of \$5,193.42. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Approve the MCIT Insurance Premium of \$7,289.00. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Approve payment of RRVCSA yearly match requirement of \$2,313.00. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

The Annual Planning Meeting was discussed by the board and will take place after the February Regular Board Meeting.

Effective January 1, 2024 IRS Mileage Rate for is 67 cents per mile. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Reports:

NRCS Report:

EQIP- Since last meeting most of my work has been on EQIP. Good progress is being made on processing FY24 applications. Total cost estimates are \$1,966,000 ranging from \$5,500 to \$450,000. While it has been communicated there is an increase of funds available, there is more and more uncertainty with how far that money will go, since changes in how management practices are scheduled (e.g. increases to payment caps and the number of years payments can be made). 3 of 6 high tunnel applications have been selected for funding. Once ranking is complete, I will start turning those plans into contracts. I expect funding selection will begin in early Feb.

CSP- Application deadline was last Friday for sign-up 1 and we ended up with 45 in East Polk. There is a workload prioritization tool that will be used to determine which apps. get assessed. Assessment deadline is April 12 and there will be the expectation of assessing and contracting EQIP at the same time. All, but two 2023 payments have been made.

I attended the E. Polk Crop Improvement Annual meeting and provided a program update/overview. My presence seemed well received, I enjoyed meeting new folks, and I look forward to making this a yearly outreach event not to miss.

Member Reports

Balstad: Crop Improvement Meeting

Pederson: No Report

Kiecker: No Report

Vettleson: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- SHRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- AgBMP Training
- BWSR Northern Committee Meeting – SHRWD 1W1P

- Clearwater 1W1P Work Group Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Started eLink reporting
- Final SWAG Invoice Submitted
- RIM Inquiries
- MAWQCP JPA Submitted & Signed
- Office organization
- Rain Garden and Shoreline Interest Letter

WCA:

- Tax Forfeit: Wetland Certificates
- Two upcoming applications

Feedlots:

- Year end reporting completed
- Work Group for Minimally Funded Counties

Marea:

Meetings/Training:

- Ag BMP Training

Engineering:

- 7 WASCObS in the design phase
- 1 Side Water Inlets (SWIs) in the design phase

Shoreline Restoration and Rain Gardens:

- Put together a list of inquiries from 2019-2023. We plan on mailing letters to these landowners to provide information on our Soil Health Grant and new funding opportunities.

Other:

- OB Wells
- Scanned in old well sealing documents.

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

Buffers:

- Field Map App Construction
- Aerial review desktop
- BuffCat Reporting Completed

Trees:

- Tree Sales
- Tree invoice

Feedlots:

- CFO Webinar
- Online trainings

SWAG:

- Year-end reporting

Other:

- Rainfall Data
- Ob Wells
- AgBMP Training
- East Polk Crop Improvement Meeting

AgBMP Report: No longer accepting applications. There is a waitlist to submit an application. Bridge loans may not be used at this time.

Other/Open Discussion

Next Meeting February TBD

Motion to adjourn at 10:20 am by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Scott Balstad
Secretary

Feb 14, 2024
Date