

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District
July 20th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Marea Gryskiewicz, Kobe Hamre, Laura Schnapp (NRCS), & Joan Lee (Polk County Commissioner)

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

Motion to approve July 20th, 2023 Agenda. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad.

Secretary's Report:

Approve June 15th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Financials:

Approve the June 2023 Financial and Treasurer's Report subject to revision. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettlson.

Old Business:

Resolution Update: There was a lot of discussion on the resolution and the general consensus was that as a group we are not in favor of the Drainage Registry Information Portal (Bill HF2354). Sheila Vanney from the MN Association or SWCD (MASWCD) was at the meeting and shared her thoughts with the group. Her point was that MASWCD has a very limited amount of resources to lobby legislators on issues. Sheila also touched on the fact that none of the SWCD's are drainage authority and workload wise this will not impact SWCDs, nor does it align with the missions of SWCDs. She challenged the group to consider if this was a conversation we really wanted the MASWCD to spend time on. Ultimately when it came to a vote this resolution did not pass. Matt Fisher, Board Conservationist with BWSR, also made some helpful comments. Although the bill did not pass this year, BWSR and the Drainage Work Group have been tasked with developing recommendations on this bill by next February. He also noted that the Drainage Authorities, including the RLWD, are very opposed to this Bill and have been very vocal about it.

New Business:

Approve encumbering Cost Share Contract, CS-23-06, for Todd Rue's well sealing from State Cost Share 2022. Total cost \$1000.00, 50% cost share for \$500.00. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad.

Approve encumbering Cost Share Contract, CS-23-07, for Todd Rue's well sealing from State Cost Share 2022. Total cost \$1000.00, 50% cost share for \$500.00. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad.

Approve payment for Cost Share Contract, CS-23-04, for Shirley Vasilakes's well sealing State Cost Share 2021. Total cost \$1000.00, 50% cost share for \$500.00. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad.

Approve payment for Cost Share Contract, CS-23-03, for Donna Tradewell's well sealing State Cost Share 2021. Total cost \$1125.00, 50% cost share for \$562.50. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad.

Discuss/Clarify Cost Share Contract Policy for Clearwater 1W1P: Rachel discussed that for the Clearwater 1W1P the cost share policy set was for both structural and non structural. Structural being WASCObS

and non structural including Rain Gardens and Shoreline Restorations. District Policy for Soil Health Cost Share on non structural is 50%. The recommendation from Rachel is to bump the Soil Health Cost Share (district policy) up to 75%. Approve increasing district policy for non structural practices to 75%. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Reports:

NRCS Report: Laura Schnapp – Very busy. Working on field visits. CSP had 5 or 6 applications selected.

Member Reports

Balstad: No Report

Kiecker: No Report

Pederson: No Report

Vettleson: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- Clearwater 1W1P PWG Meeting
- SHRWD 1W1P Advisory & Policy Meeting
- SHRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting (x2)
- Area 1 Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- 2nd Quarter Payroll and Invoices
- DNR Ob wells Year End

WCA:

- One Notice of Application for Delineation Concurrence for the City of Fosston
- Reviewed RLWD Permits (x3)
 - o Surveyed 2
- One AgBank Application: Badger 17 Treesteg's
 - o Reviewed but not signed yet. Waiting on NRCS to confirm that they have completed the necessary steps for their end.
- Site visit with delineator for Rob Super Application.
- Multiple site visits and review done for inquiries.

Other

- DNR Ob Wells

Marea:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Prairie Plant ID Training
- Side Water Inlet Webinar
- Streambank Site Visits in Other Counties with Logan Handyside

WASCOB:

- 1 survey and design in Hill River Township

WCA:

- 2 surveys

Shoreline:

- Cameron Lake Site Visits

- Cameron Lake Survey

Other:

- OB Wells
- Lake Monitoring

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- CISMA Meeting
- SWAG Check-in Meeting
- Native Plant Community ID Training

Buffers:

- Desktop reviews
- Site visits
- Noncompliance Maps

Shoreline:

- Cameron Lake Site Visits

Feedlots:

- CFO Webinar
- Mid-Year Review

Other:

- Rainfall Data
- Data Review – Stream / Lakes
- SWAG
- Fair & Fair Board

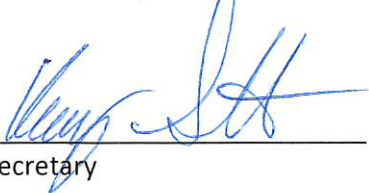
Kobe:

- Stream Monitoring
- Lake Levels
- Lake Monitoring
- Assisted with SWAG
- Volunteered with DNR Wildlife: Banded Geese
- Historical WCA File Digitization
- Site visits with Marea

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

Next Meeting August 17th, 2023 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:05 am. Motion by Vettleon, Second by Balstad.



Secretary

9-7-23

Date

