

**East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District  
June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

Board members present: Dave Kiecker, Kory Sonstelie, and Scott Balstad

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Marea Gryskiewicz, Kobe Hamre, Laura Schnapp (NRCS), & Brett Arne (BWSR)

Meeting called to order at 8:48 am by Vice Chairman Sonstelie

Motion to approve June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Agenda. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

**Secretary's Report:**

Approve April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

**Financials:**

Approve the April 2023 Treasure Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

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

**Old Business:**

North Pod Meeting: The North Pod Meeting was held prior to the TSA meeting. It was decided that at this time they will not pursue hiring any additional staff, another technician or engineer. Discussion was also had on what would happen to the equipment acquired by the North Pod if the organization were to dissolve.

RRVCSA Meeting: The full TSA Board met and discussed the revised Joint Powers Agreement.

**New Business:**

Approve RRVCSA JPA. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Set Cost Share Contract Policy for Clearwater 1W1P: Brett discussed the cost share policies and the history of those policies. 1W1P money can provide cost share up to 90% and State Cost Share funds can provide cost share up to 75%.

- Clearwater 1W1P Cost Share Policy: A minimum of 75% for projects with up to 90% based on prioritization. Prioritization will be given to projects that fall within a targeted area determined by the PTMapp and the location in regard to an impaired or nearly impaired watercourse. Prioritization will be determined by staff and presented with the Cost Share Contract to Board of Supervisors for approval. The Board of Supervisors have the discretion to set the cost share percentage from 75% to 90% depending on the factors listed above.

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

Approve encumbering 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 Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

\*\* Kiecker abstained from the voting and chaired the meeting allowing Sonstelie to vote.

Approve encumbering Cost Share Contract, CS-23-05, for Dave Kiecker's WASCOD project. Total cost \$55,023.47.

- \$3,451.19 will be coming from State Cost Share 2021
- \$20,753.52 from the RLWD (non-state funds)
- \$25,316.41 from the Clearwater River 1W1P

Motion by Balstad, Second by Sonstelie

Sonstelie resumed his position as Vice Chairman

Approve Payment to Schumacher's Nursery for \$7,125.50. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Discuss thoughts on MOA or JPA structure for the SHRWD 1W1P & discussion on fiscal agent for the grant. Brett Arne provided information on the difference between the MOA structure and the JPA structure. Rachel discussed the fiscal agent options for the SHRWD 1W1P. Both the SHRWD and West Polk SWCD have offered to be the fiscal agent. Discussion was had on the fiscal agent roll and the pros and cons of either office doing the job. The East Polk SWCD Board of Supervisor support the MOA structure and West Polk SWCD as the fiscal agent. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Legislative Update: Brett Arne

SWCD Aid Funding went through on the Omnibus Tax Bill. This will replace the Capacity money and will be a more stable funding source than the Capacity money that was funded by the Clean Water Act. This money will come yearly directly from the Department of Revenue.

Brett also talked about the Disaster Relief Aid. There was no legislative money given. The internal process will start with BWSR now and there is potential that there could be disaster money coming directly from BWSR. Updates will be provided.

### **Reports:**

**NRCS Report:** Laura Schnapp

EQIP- I think we are close to wrapping FY23's funding cycle. In total 10 applications were selected for funding, a total of \$400,168 and 1,767 ac. 21 applications weren't selected for funding and will roll over to next year for consideration. In addition, I have accepted 5-10 new applications that are waiting on initial field visits to start the planning process. Inspections and practice certifications for spring cover crops, pollinator plantings, & some engineering practices are ongoing.

CSP Classic- Assessments and ranking are complete and the 1<sup>st</sup> round of preapprovals has been complete. In E. Polk, 11 applications were ID'd for high priority. Of those, 7 were ranked and 2 selected for funding. Contract development is occurring with an approval deadline of July 28.

CTA- I recently had 2 people want to discuss forest management and potential financial assistance. I'm actively learning about this process and anticipate field visits later this summer. I'm starting to find room in my schedule to conduct field visits and have several producers soil erosion concerns that I will be visiting soon and requesting engineering assistance.

Food Security Act Compliance (HEL & W) workload has been steady. I completed 9 CRP needs and feasibility worksheets per FSA's request. There are 16 accepted offers that I'll be writing plans for this summer.

**Coming up in June/July:**

CSP contract building  
CSP ranking approval deadline- July 28  
CRP plan development  
Be in the field as much as possible.

### **Member Reports**

Balstad: Discussion with Brett about disaster relief funds. Brett reported that the legislator did not include any emergency funds. BWSR still has an option to run the money through them and they are working on coming up with a plan.

Kiecker: No Report

Sonsteli : No Report

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Rachel:**

#### Meetings/Training:

- Local Work Group Meeting
- Clearwater 1W1P PWG Meeting
- SHRWD 1W1P Advisory & Policy Meeting (x2)
- SHRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- BWSR Legislative Update

#### Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Internship Position – Hired Kobe Hamre
- Policy Handbook

#### WCA:

- Meeting with Tom Hutchins to review open WCA cases.
- Inquiries
- One extended Restoration Order for Union Lake

#### Other:

- Envirothon
- Tree Drop Off
- Arbor Day: Win-E-Mac, Fosston, Fertile, & The Clubhouse
- County Board Meeting for Feedlots

#### **Marea:**

#### Meetings/Trainings:

- North Pod Meeting
- TSA Meeting
- Shoreline & Rain Garden Meeting with Blaine

#### WASCOB:

- 1 survey and design in Hill River Township

#### WCA:

- Site visit with Rachel
- Setback and wetland boundary maps

#### Shoreline:

- 1 Shoreline site visit on Cable Lake
- 1 Rain Garden site visit by Badger Lake
- Cameron Lake Project

#### Other:

- 2023 Lake Leader
- MN Geologic Atlas
- OB Wells
- Lake Monitoring
- Trees

**Jenna:**

Meetings/Trainings:

- Local Work Group Meeting – East Polk
- Glacial Ridge LTT Meeting
- CISMA Meeting
- Feedlot Regional Meeting
- SWAG Check-in Meeting

Buffers:

- Desktop reviews
- Field Check List
- APOs
- Site visits

Feedlots:

- CFO Webinar

Trees:

- Order – Packing
- Tree Pick-up Days
- Last orders picked up and paid for

Other:

- Rainfall Data
- Lake Leader
- Stream Monitoring
- SWAG
- Fair Board

**Kobe:**

- Sond Training at the RLWD
- Tree Pickup
- Lake Leader
- Stream Monitoring
- Lake Monitoring
- Assisted with SWAG
- MN Geological Atlas
- Buffer site visits with Jenna
- Shoreline visits with Marea
- WCA site visits with Rachel
- Ob Wells

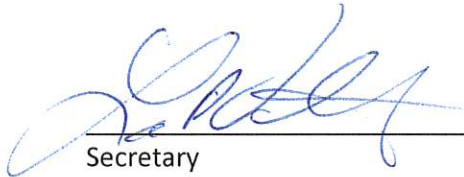
**AgBMP Report:** No longer accepting applications. There is a waitlist to submit an application. Bridge loans may not be used at this time.

Other/Open Discussion: Discussion was had on the Shoreline Restoration Project on Lake Sarah Campground installed in 2018. This project has failed due to the unstable water levels of Lake Sarah.

Due to the failure being caused by reasons beyond the landowner's control this contract will not need to be reimbursed by the landowner. After reviewing the project this area would not meet the requirements under the current cost share policy for shoreline restorations, no erosion issues, and the East Polk SWCD will not be providing any additional funds to a project in this area at this time.

**Next Meeting July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 8:30am**

Motion to adjourn at 11:01 am. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

  
Secretary

7-20-23  
Date

