

East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 18th, 2021 at 8:30am

***This meeting will be held in the conference room with a Zoom meeting option for participants ***

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

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Marea Schommer, Joan Lee, Justine Muller, Jenny Burrack, Luther Newton, and Roy Holmes

Meeting called to order at 8:31 am by Chairman Pederson.

Motion to approve March 18, 2021 Agenda. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve February 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Balstad, Second by Sonstelie.

Financials:

Approve the February 2021 Financial Report subject to revisions. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad, to approve the financial report.

Approve the February 2021 Treasurer Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker to approve the treasurers report.

Old Business:

Vesledahl Wetland Bank – Rachel has been in contact with BWSR who was not aware that there was a potential sale of the bank site. Meetings between BWSR and MnDOT have now started with a more in-depth meeting happening March 19th. BWSR knows that the landowners want drainage and have supported drainage through this area. There is a permanent easement on the site and the likelihood of a new drainage system or improvements to the current drainage system is not likely due to the impacts that would have on the wetland bank. However, maintaining the drainage systems that are currently there are an option. The SWCD Board or Supervisor's supports the SHRWD in obtaining a new drainage system through the wetland bank site. A letter will be sent to the appropriate legislators from the SWCD on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Area 1 TSA Staffing Issues – Justin Muller from the Kittson SWCD joined the call to help answer any questions that the board may have on this issue. After some discussion on the yearly amount responsible by the district, the flexibility of leaving or joining of the shared staff person agreement, and overall unknowns the board has decided to not proceed with the option of using TSA funds to hire a shared staff for the northern districts. Instead we will be focusing on pursuing JAA for staff to be able to survey and design projects and utilize private engineering firms to meet the district needs.

New Business:

Roy Holms, Civil Engineering Technician with NRCS attended the meeting to talk about potential options for funding partnership project opportunities between NRCS and the SWCD. NRCS has limited funds for projects right now but has a fair number of projects in East Polk that are ready to go. Roy is going to prioritize the list he has by resource concerns and will send it to Rachel. The board will then review the list and contact the watershed districts for additional funding. The amount of available State Cost Share dollars was also reviewed.

Motion to approve payment of \$135,930.78 to the SHRWD for the Carlson Coulee Project from the Targeted Grant. Motion by, Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Approve encumbering funds from State Cost Share 2018 for Judy Erickson well sealing CS-18-8. Total estimate = \$800, 50% cost share = \$400. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Approve payment of \$322.50 for Ray Voxland's well sealing, CS-18-7. Total bill was \$690.00. Approved encumbered amount was \$645.00 with 50% cost share at \$322.50. Motion by Balstad, Second by Sonsteli.

Intern Position: Offered Jenna Wiersma the position at \$15/hour. Motion to approve hiring Jenna Wiersma by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Reports:

NRSC Report: EQIP and CSP have been busy. EQIP closes on March 26th, 2021 and CSP closes around the same time. For EQIP there is approximately \$800,000 to be dispersed between the five counties in our group. There are 12 EQIP applications in East Polk and funding for these is not looking good. There is also a new program called EQIP Incentive Contract which is a combination of EQIP and CSP.

Member Reports

Pederson: Attended the Area 1 Meeting and AIS meeting via Zoom.

Sonsteli: No report

Balstad: Followed up on a resolution for requiring a public hearing for all areas being added to the buffer map.

Kiecker: No report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- Northern TSA Meeting
- Glacial Ridge LLT CISMA
- TEP Meeting with Steve
- Clearwater 1W1P Planning Work Group Meeting
- TSA Area 1 Staffing Meeting
- TEP meeting with Steve and Consultant for a delineation report review.
- WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- Full TEP Meeting with DNR and Tom, Conservation Officer

- Wetland Restoration Training

Admin:

- Review and interviewing internship candidates
- Arbor Day education prep

WCA:

- 1 new Inquiry
- Wrapping up other inquiries before spring planting starts
- Working on restoration orders

Feedlots:

- Re-Registration Prep

Marea:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Northern TSA Meeting
- NRCS Engineering Tools Webinar
- EagleView webinar
- Building Habitat on Working Landscapes
- Wetland Training
- WCA Meeting
- Shoreland Webinar
- FEMA Map Basics Webinar
- FEMA Map Reading Webinar

Buffers:

- CAN Maps
- CAN letters will be sent out February 26, 2021

ArcGIS:

- Feedlot Map

Other:

- Tree Orders
- Rainfall Monitoring
- Lake Leader

AgBMP Report: None

Other/Open Discussion

Next Meeting April 15th, 2021 at 8:30am

Adjourn 10:43am. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.