

**East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Other's present: Marea Schommer, Rachel Klein, Jenna Wiersma, & Joan Lee.

Meeting called to order at 8:33 am by Chairman Sontstelie

Motion to approve March 17, 2022 Agenda. Motion by Pederson, Second by Kiecker.

**Secretary's Report:**

Approve February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Pederson, Second by Kiecker.

**Financials:**

Approve the February 2022 Financial Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Pederson, Second by Kiecker.

Approve the February 2022 Treasurer Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Pederson, Second by Kiecker.

**Old Business:**

Vesledahl Wetland Bank – Rachel provided an update from Steve Hofstad, BWSR. BWSR and MnDOT have several internal meetings and to discuss and review documents that demonstrate the responsibilities between MnDOT and BWSR for future landowner drainage maintenance request involving the bank. MnDOT plans to send a letter out to all neighboring landowners describing the process to permit drainage maintenance within the bank. These letters will hopefully go out this week and will be shared with the board once available.

Area 1 TSA – The TSA has approved with moving ahead with the hiring of an engineer and engineer technician as a TSA employee for the northern area. In the case of lack of funding (lack of projects) the northern districts will assume responsibility of any financial shortfalls of the two new employees with a maximum out of pocket of \$24,000. This would be worse case scenario and is unlikely to happen. The southern half of the TSA will be hiring additional staff as well, but they will be district staff. It was also decided that we will move forward with Stage 2 of the PRAP study which will focus on structure of the TSA being essentially in two separate pods as well as focus on the legal agreements that will be needed.

Rainfall Monitoring: In need of a new volunteer for Queen Township. – Tabled.

**New Business:**

Approve payment of \$5,864.21 to Eureka Water Probes for a new sond for water monitoring, this will be reimbursed by the MPCA SWAG agreement that. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Rachel presented a potential funding opportunity with NRCS on WASCOB project for Kevin Blaser in Columbia 4. Total project cost is \$13,494.28 with EQIP covering \$7,911.00. 75% of the total project would be \$10,120.71. Additional funds that will be requested from the district in the future would be \$2,209.71 or the remaining amount to get the total cost share up to 75%. Approve supporting this project, with completed cost share application to come. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

**Reports:****NRCS Report:**

Conservation Stewardship Program: FY2022 Classic – April 15, 2022 Assessment and Ranking Deadline.  
14 High screened application in the Crookston CST, None in Polk County. FY2023 Renewals – March 25, 2022 Application acceptance deadline.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

FY2022 Applications – 59 Preapproved applications in the Crookston CST

McIntosh – 10 applications preapproved

Crookston – 3 applications preapproved

**Other**

DC for McIntosh, March 28, 2022 start date

DC for Crookston, April 11, 2022

Opening to public? – Unknown yet

**Member Reports**

Sonsteli: No Report

Balstad: Attended the TSA Board Meeting

Pederson: Attended the Area 1 Meeting in Mahanomen.

Kiecker: No Report

**Staff Reports**

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- Clearwater 1W1P Planning Work Group Meeting (x2)
- SHRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- TSA Board Meeting

Admin:

- Envirothon Prep – Cancelled.
- eLink Meeting with Brett
- Policy Handbook Revisions

WCA:

- TEP meeting with Tom
- Tax Forfeit Wetland Certificates
- 2 inquires

Feedlots:

- Year-end review

**Marea:**

Meetings/Trainings:

- Shoreline Restoration meeting with Blaine Keller
- Area 1 TSA Meeting
- Area 1 Meeting
- 2022 Frontier Precision Minnesota Survey Users Group
- WASCOB Training with Scott Smith

- Grassroots Soil Health Workshop

Buffers:

- Non-Compliance Maps

ArcGIS:

Other:

- WASCOB Design with Scott Smith
- Well Locations for Minnesota Geologic Survey
- 2022 Lake Leader

**Jenna:**

Meetings/Trainings:

- ArcGIS Pro Training w/ Mary
- Envirothon Planning Meeting
- Shoreline Restoration Training
- Grassroots Soil Health Workshop
- Area 1 TSA Meeting
- Area 1 Meeting
- Feedlot CFO Training

Trees:

- Tree Orders
- Tree inventory - finalized
- Invoices
- Tree sale logs sent to Josie
- Planting Contact list created

Other:

- Design of Invasive species factsheet
- Lake Leader 2022

AgBMP Report: No report

Other/Open Discussion

**Next Meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 8:30am. (tentatively)**

Motion to adjourn at 9:50 am by Kiecker, Second by Pederson.

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Secretary

Date