

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District March 14th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Meeting called to order at 8:47 am by Chairman Pederson

Motion to approve March 14, 2024 Agenda. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Secretary's Report:

Approve February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Financials:

Approve the February 2024 Treasure Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Old Business:

No Till Policy – Tabled

New Business:

Approve JAA for Marea as recommendation by NRCS (see breakdown below). Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

- 606 (Diameter – No Pressure Permitted): I I&E, I Design
- 620 (Diameter – Non-Pressurized): III, I&E, III Design
- 638 (Drainage Area): III I&E, III Design
- 638 (Fill Height): II I&E, II Design

Approve encumbering cost share contract, CS-24-02, for Mark Strom's well sealing project. Total project cost is \$975. 50% is \$487.50. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Approve encumbering cost share contract, CS-24-03, for Ryan Embretson's well sealing project. Total project cost is \$975. 50% is \$487.50. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Approve encumbering cost share contract, CS-24-04, for Brad Johnson's well sealing project. Total project cost is \$975. 50% is \$487.50. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Approve Participating in the RLWD 1W1P. David Kiecker will be our representative with Ken Pederson as the Alternate. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

PERA Late Fees – Rachel explained that Josie had notified her that there would be some late fees associated with the filing of the PERA payments. At the time of that conversation on February 22nd there were five payments that were missed, and the late fee is \$10/payment. The late payments will be automatically deducted from our account. Josie has verbally agreed to pay for the late fees. Motion to approve invoicing Myhre's Tax Service for the PERA late fees by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Rachel reported that she was purchasing a new computer for \$1789.99. The old laptop will be used for the intern who will start on March 26th with limited after school hours.

Reports:

NRCS Report: EQIP- So far 6 applications have been selected for funding: 3 high tunnels, 2 implementing practices for wildlife, and 1 to write a CNMP. An additional funding request was submitted to national. We (MN) expect more funding and I should hear by the end of March if additional applications are selected. CSP- Assessment and ranking deadline is 4/12/24. This is where most of my time is being spent as there are ~25 applications to process. CRP- There is a general sign-up happening until 3/29/24. Updated soil rates are out and there is an overall increase. I have asked FSA to provide an update regarding trends: interest, acres, etc. and I'm still waiting for that info. Planning requests are trickling in. Since our last meeting I have participated in a few trainings: Soils Health Producer Panel in Crookston, cover crops in cold climates, herbaceous vegetation establishment. I am trying to learn more about forestry type activities as there seems to be increased interest. There is funding available through EQIP to assist with writing plans.

Member Reports

Balstad: No Report

Pederson: BWSR Board Training

Kiecker: BWSR Board Training

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- SHRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- Envirothon Planning Meeting
- Clearwater 1W1P Work Group Meeting
- North Pod TSA Meeting
- RRVCSA Board Meeting
- TEP Meeting
- Meeting with Conservation Officer Tom Hutchins to review open WCA cases.
- BWSR Board Training

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Rain Garden and Shoreline Interest Letter
- Envirothon Planning
- Internship Interview – Hired Emily Strom for the 2024 Internship Position for \$15/hr

WCA:

- One Exemption Application Submitted by Minnkota for a new Transmission Line
- Two upcoming replacement applications
- One Ag Bank Application – approved and signed.
- New Violation in Eden 31

Feedlots:

- Work Group for Minimally Funded Counties

Marea:

Meetings/Training:

- 4 WASCOB reviews with Scott Smith
- North Pod Training
- Cameron Lake Project

Engineering:

- 7 WASCOBs in the design phase
- 1 Side Water Inlets (SWIs) in the design phase
- Cameron Lake Design

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- DNR Webex
- CFO Training
- Conflict & Communication Training

Buffers:

- Aerial review desktop
- BuffCat – update (new buffcat for 2024)

Trees:

- Tree Sales
- Tree invoice

Other:

- Rainfall Data
- Website Update
- Lake Leader

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:

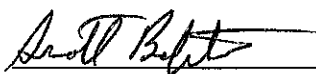
- Scott is going to propose to the TSA that the meetings be moved and rotated between Detroit Lakes and Crookston.
- Summer Construction Incentive Program: New policy that Becker is implementing that pays up to \$200/acre for crop damages to get projects installed before September 1st. Rachel will follow up with Becker for details on how they are running this program.
- Rachel reported that she had found an error in the accounting and provided a detailed explanation of the error, how it would be corrected, and her correspondence with Josie.

Upcoming Meetings:

- March 18th at 9:30am – RLWD Advisory Committee Meeting
- March 19th at 9am – Area 1 Meeting in Mahnomen
- March 20th at 10am – AgBMP Meeting in Thief River Falls
- March 21st at 1:30pm – AIS Meeting in Crookston

Next Meeting April 18th, 2024 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:52 am by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.



Secretary



Date

