

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District May 16th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

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

Motion to approve May 16, 2024 Agenda. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Sonsteli.

Secretary's Report:

Approve April 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Sonsteli.

Financials:

Approve the April 2024 Financial & Treasure Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Sonsteli, Second by Kiecker.

Old Business:

Reminder the Resolution Deadline is June 7th.

New Business:

Approve the Red Lake Soil Health Shared Services Agreement. Motion by Balstad, Second by Sonsteli.

Approve payment to Schumacher's Nursery for \$9,930.95 for 2024 Trees. Motion by Sonsteli, Second by Balstad.

Approve encumbering cost share Contract, CS-24-10, for Matthew Voxland's No Till and Cover Crop project. He plans to do 47 acres of No Till this spring and 77 Acres of cover crops in the fall. Policy states up to 80 acres per applicant per year. Total Project Cost for 80 acres is \$3200. This project will be funded by Soil Health Cost Share 2023. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Approve encumbering cost share Contract, CS-24-11, for Michael Voxland's No Till project. He plans to do 89 acres of No Till this spring. Policy states up to 80 acres per applicant per year. Total Project Cost for 80 acres is \$3200. This project will be funded by Soil Health Cost Share 2023. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Approve encumbering cost share Contract, CS-24-09, for Mike Theis's WASCOP Project in Brandsvold 35. Total project cost is \$55,237.15. 90% is \$49,713.43. This project will be funded by the Clearwater 1W1P. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

Reports:

NRCS Report: EQIP- Initial state allocation was \$54.4M. We received an additional \$41M in March and April. 3 additional applications have been selected for funding. All cropland focused activities. Activities are starting to pick up re: contract management and field visits for practice certifications.

CSP- 4 applicants selected for funding. 1 beginning farmer, 1 forestry, 1 general cropland. I am working on moving these to contracts.

CRP- Workload is starting to pick up. So far, 13 offers are waiting for planning.

One watershed one plan RCPP- 1 application received prior to application deadline. Ranking is due 5-17-24. I should know by 5-28-24 if selected for funding. I shared info. with Rachel about ranking and how folks are awarded extra ranking points if projects are planned to be funded leveraging state 1W1P funds.

There have been several initial field visits this month with new folks looking to participate with NRCS.

Member Reports

Balstad: Water Festival put on by White Earth in Mahnomen at the end of May

Pederson: LWG

Kiecker: No Report

Sonsteli: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- SHRWD 1W1P Meeting
- Envirothon
- Arbor Day
 - o Win-E-Mac, Fosston, Fertile, Freedom Christian Academy, & Clubhouse Daycare
 - o 200 Trees!

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Lake Leader
- Tree Day Prep & Pickup
- Streambank Stabilization Info

WCA:

- Multiple Site Visit
- TEP Meeting with Steve
- TEP Meeting with Steve & Stephanie Klamm

Marea:

Meetings/Training:

- Envirothon

Engineering:

- 6 WASCObS in the design phase
- 1 Side Water Inlets (SWIs) in the design phase
- Cameron Lake Design

Other:

- Tree Day Prep

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Envirothon

Buffers:

- Aerial review desktop

- BuffCat – update (new buffcat for 2024)

Trees:

- Tree Day Prep & Pickup Day

Other:

- Stream Monitoring
- Lake Levels
- Lake Leader
- Feedlot 2025 Registration Numbers

Emily: (Intern)

- Lake Leader Mailing
- Tree Pickup Day

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

Other Discussion:

The failing project on Brady Kroening's property: Rachel will look into this issue and see what has previously been done and what our options could be for moving forward and correcting this issue.

Fertile Learning Center and the bank erosion on the Sand Hill River around Fertile: A board member from the Fertile Learning Center asked if there was anything that could be done to restore or prevent further erosion on a site within the Learning Center. Rachel contacted the RLWD about how they prioritize and fund these projects. The RLWD responded with some suggestions and included a DNR contact on the responding email. DNR will be looking at the Sand Hill River this summer for erosion and issues. This is the start of the process for prioritizing streambank work. Rachel plans to attend these site visits.

Next Meeting June 13th, 2024 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:41 am by Kiecker, Second by Sonsteliie.

	6/13/2024
Secretary	Date