

**East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District
September 7th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

Board members present: Dave Kiecker, Ken Pederson, Larry Vettleson and Kory Sonstelie

Other's present: Rachel Klein, Jenna Simonson, Marea Gryskiewicz, Laura Schnapp (NRCS), & Joan Lee (Polk County Commissioner)

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am by Chairman Pederson

Motion to approve September 7th, 2023 Agenda. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Keicker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve July 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

Financials:

Approve the July 2023 Financial and Treasurer's Report subject to revision. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Sonstelie.

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

Old Business:

New Business:

Approve encumbering Cost Share Contract, CS-23-09, for Kevin Hanson's well sealing from State Cost Share 2022. Total cost \$1000.00, 50% cost share for \$500.00. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

Set flat rate for cover crop contracts.

East Polk Cover Crop Policy: \$40/acre up to 80 acres per applicant.

- Eligibility: Applicants already incorporating the specific no-till practice in the operation are NOT eligible. No-till planting sites must have existing cover. Tilled sites are NOT eligible.
- Program Guidelines:
 - o Cover Crop Operation and Maintenance Plan shall be developed in accordance with the requirements of the NRCS Practice Standard 329 – Residue Management and 340 – Cover Crop and the Minnesota Cover Crop Design Tool.
 - o Payment will be released to the applicant after seed tags have been provided and establishment has been verified by the SWCD staff.
 - o Cover Crops can be used for supplemental forage by grazing but CANNOT be harvested for grain.
 - o Cover Crops will remain in the field over winter. No fall tillage is allowed.
 - o Applicants already receiving soil health incentives are not eligible for cost share. (ex: CSP or EQUIP)

Motion to approve the East Polk SWCD Cover Crop Policy by Kiecker, Second by Sontelie.

Approve encumbering Cost Share Contract, CS-23-10, for Mayo Rusten's cover crop from Soil Health Cost Share 2023. Flat Rate \$40/acre for 60 acres. Total Cost \$2400. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Sonstelie.

Approve encumbering Cost Share Contract, CS-23-11, for Ron Lemer's cover crop from Soil Health Cost Share 2023. Flat Rate \$40/acre for 55 acres. Total Cost \$2200. Motion to deny this cost share contract due to this being a tilled site. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Keicker.

Approve encumbering Cost Share Contract, CS-23-08, for Shayne Munter's cover WASCOP project, located in Hill River 21, from Clearwater 1W1P 2023 funds. Total cost is \$11,931.60. This project outlets into a PW wetland and lake and is in a priority area on the PTMapp for the Hill River Planning Region. 90% cost share is \$10,738.44. Motion by Keicker, Second by Vettleson.

Reports:

NRCS Report: Fiscal year ends September 30th. 17 EQUIP contracts funded equaling approximately \$900,000 which is up from 2022 at approximately \$833,000. 5 CSP contracts funded, equaling approximately \$625,000 which is up from 2022 which had zero funded contracts. 2024 funding: the first round of funding for EQUIP has a deadline of October 6th, 2023.

Member Reports

Keicker: No Report

Pederson: SHRWD 1W1P Policy Meeting

Vettleson: No Report

Sontelie: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- Clearwater 1W1P PWG Meeting
- SHRWD 1W1P Advisory & Policy Meeting
- SHRWD 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
- Union Lake Sarah Annual Meeting
- Turtle Connection Project Meeting
- North Pod TSA Meeting
- Full TSA Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- SWAG & Clearwater 1W1P 2nd Quarter Invoices
- County Budget
- Audit

WCA:

- One Notice of Decisions for Delineation Concurrence for Rob Super
- Multiple site visits and review done for inquiries.
- Two new violations on Union Lake.
 - o One Restoration Order sent and working on the other.
- TEP Meeting with Steve
- Earl Roed Voluntary Restoration for Violation was completed Sept 5th

Other

- Buffer Landowner Meeting
- Feedlot Funding will be coming in September

Marea:

WASCOB:

- 1 survey and design in Hill River Township
- 1 construction staking

WCA:

- 2 survey maps
- 1 delineation map

Shoreline and Rain Garden:

- Lake Sarah Campground Shoreline Protection Design
- Updated old shoreline files
- 2 Shoreline Site Evaluations
- 4 site visit
 - o 1- Lake Sarah
 - o 2-Maple
 - o 1- Agassiz Learning Center

Other:

- 2023 Newsletter
- Lake Monitoring

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- CISMA Meeting x3
- SWAG Check-in Meeting

Buffers:

- Desktop reviews
- Site visits
- Noncompliance Maps
- Record updating with BWSR

Shoreline:

- Tagged along with Marea on 5 site visits

Feedlots:

- CFO Webinar

Other:

- Rainfall Data
- Data Review -- Stream / Lakes
- Stream Monitor
- Lake Levels
- SWAG
- Fall Newsletter
- CISMA -- Wild Parsnip flyer

Kobe: Last Day was August 18th

- Stream Monitoring
- Lake Levels
- Lake Monitoring
- Assisted with SWAG
- Digitized Files for Shoreline Restoration

- Historical WCA File Digitization
- Buffers

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

Next Meeting October 12th, 2023 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 9:46 am. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Sontelie.

 _____
Secretary

11-16-23
_____ Date