

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District

July 18th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Meeting called to order at 8:29 am by Chairman Pederson

Motion to approve July 18, 2024 Agenda. Motion by Vettlson, Second by Sonstelie.

Secretary's Report:

Approve June 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Sonstelie, Second by Vettleson.

Financials:

Approve the June 2024 Financial & Treasure Reports subject to revisions. Motion by Sonstelie, Second by Vettleson.

Old Business:

New Business:

Approve payment for Cost Share Contract, CS-24-03, for Ryan Embretson's well sealing. Total project cost is \$875. 50% is \$437.50. Encumbered amount was \$487.50. This project is funded by Cost Share 2022. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

Approve payment for Cost Share Contract, CS-24-04, for Brad Johnson's well sealing. Total project cost is \$875. 50% is \$437.50. Encumbered amount was \$487.50. This project is funded by Cost Share 2022. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

Approve Voxland Amendment #01. This amendment is moving part of his funding from Soil Health Cost Share 2023 to Conservation Contracts 2024. The original contract had the full amount, \$3200, coming from Soil Health Cost Share 2023. There are insufficient funds in that grant to cover the full amount. The new breakdown below is \$910 from Soil Health Cost Share 2023 and \$2,290 from Conservation Contract 2024. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Kiecker.

Reports:

NRCS Report: EQIP- Contract building- 1 additional application selected for funding. Practice certifications- mostly spring cover crops & pollinator/wildlife plantings. EQIP FY25 sign-up 1 application deadline announced: 9/6/2024. This is significantly earlier than previous years. Last year was 9/30 and previous years it was closer to end of calendar year. CSP- 2 left to get to contract- 1 ready to be signed, and 1 needs contract built still. RCPP- One application selected for funding in Red Lake River 1W1P fund pool. CRP- The 13 offers reported last month are still waiting for planning. Deadline for plans to be reviewed, signed, and sent back to FSA is 9/6/2024. Expiring CRP (21) status reviews need complete by 9/30/24. I have been trying to ID training opportunities for this summer, but with current workload it's been put as a low

priority. A job announcement was flown for a soil con. For my office. We should hear soon if there were any candidates that made the certification list and interviewed.

Member Reports

Balstad: Area 1 Meeting

Kiecker: No Report

Sonstelie: No Report

Pederson: Area 1 Meeting

Vettleson: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- Feedlot Workgroup Meeting
- Area 1 Meeting
- Managing Up & Across Training
- Soil Health Meeting - RLF
- TEP Meeting
- 2025 MACFO Planning Meeting (Feedlot Annual Meeting)

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, board meeting prep
- Cameron Lake Project Info Letter
- DNR ObWell Year End & FY 25 Contract

WCA:

- Two Notice of Decisions for Delineation Applications
- TEP Meeting with Steve
- Restoration Order for Russell Emerson extended due to wet condition

Marea:

Meetings/Training:

- WASCOB design meeting with Logan
- Union Lake Improvement District Meeting

Engineering:

- 10 WASCOBs in the design phase
- 3 WASCOBS ready for construction
- 1 Side Water Inlets (SWIs) in the design phase
- Cameron Lake Design

Shoreline Restoration and Rain Gardens:

- 4 shoreline site visits (3- Maple Lake & 1- Union Lake)
- 1 rain garden site visit at Union Lake

Other:

- Lake Monitoring

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Area 1 Meeting

Buffers:

- APO Buffer Review for the County
- ArcPro Buffer Map

Water Quality:

- Stream Monitoring
- Lake Levels
- Rainfall data

Other:

- Fair Board
- Website Updates
- Wild Parsnip Handout

Emily: (Intern)

- Updating BuffCat
- Lake Monitoring
- Stream Monitoring & Lake Levels
- Updating Fall Newsletter Mailing List
- Fair Board Prep
- Cameron Lake Letter Prep
- Geese Banding with the DNR

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:

Competitive Grants – The plan is to complete a grant application for the Cameron Lake Shoreline Restoration Project.

NRBG (WCA & LWM) & Feedlot Funds: The county has had the NRBG Funds since January 3rd and end of December for the Feedlot Money. They have yet to distribute the money to the SWCDs. Both West Polk and East Polk have been in contact with Polk County with no resolve on this issue.

Audit: The audit deadline was June 30th and nothing has been submitted.

Next Meeting August 15th, 2024 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:37 am by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Scott Balstad *August 15, 2024*
Secretary Date