

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District April 16, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: David Kiecker, Scott Balstad, Kory Sonsteli, Larry Vettleson and Ken Pederson.

Other's Present: Rachel Klein, Gabby Rodriguez, Jenna Simonson, Laura Schnapp, and Joan Lee.

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

Approve the April 16, 2026 Agenda. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonsteli.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Sonsteli, Seconded by Kiecker.

Financials:

No Financials

Old Business:

New Business:

Approve Feedlot Year End Review. Motion by Sonsteli, Seconded by Vettlson.

Approve CS-26-25, Well Sealing Contract for Barent Thronson. Total contract is \$1500, 50% is \$750. This project will be funded by Conservation 2026. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Sonsteli.

Soil Health Contracts Approved by Rachel Klein.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| - 60A-1-17: \$12,000 | - 60A-2-16: \$600 |
| - 60A-2-05: \$15,000 | - 60A-2-17: \$4,200 |
| - 60A-2-06: \$6,240 | - 60A-2-18: \$15,000 |
| - 60A-2-07: \$11,700 | - 60A-2-19: \$5,700 |
| - 60A-2-08: \$3,150 | - 60A-2-20: \$3,325 |
| - 60A-2-10: \$1,750 | |
| - 60A-2-11: \$15,000 | Total: \$123,665 |
| - 60A-2-14: \$15,000 | |

Motion to approve Soil Health Contracts listed above by Sonsteli, Seconded by Balstad.

WCA Replacement Application – The Technical Evaluation Panel's (TEP) findings. The TEP consists of Rachel, Steve Hofstad, BWSR, and Stephanie Klamm, DNR. The TEP recommends denying this application. Motion to deny this application pending no further comments that are due by April 21, 2026 by Balstad, Seconded by Sonsteli. Motion passed unanimously.

Call For Resolutions: Due by the May Board Meeting.

Reports:

NRCS: EQIP- Application assessments and rankings completed prior to deadline. In total 30 applications were ranked with cost estimates totaling \$5,566,691.00. There was a nice diversity of applicants this year: 16 cropland, 7 forest/wildlife, 5 pasture/grazing, 3 farmstead, & 1 high tunnel. 11 of those met beginning farmer criteria and 2 identified as socially disadvantaged. Pre-approving applications for funding has begun. Those picked in E. Polk so far include 1 pasture/grazing, 1 cropland, 4 forest/wildlife plans. More may get picked for funding.

CSP- assessments and rankings in progress. There are 9 applications I'm working through, with a ranking deadline of 4-24-26. It's been suggested that E. Polk may get 1 application picked for funding.

CRP- E. Polk received 18 offers for 644.25 ac. under the Continuous sign-up 1st batching deadline (3-20-26). ~56% percent are re-enrollments. The general sign-up batching deadline is 4-17-26. So far, we've received 9 offers for 281.31 ac. ~92% percent are re-enrollments.

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist openings- These folks are partner positions and primarily work to promote, accelerate enrollment, coordinate, and implement CRP. There are 3 openings in MN: Moorhead, Thief River Falls, and Luverne (SW MN), MN.

Local Work Group meeting scheduled for 5-7-26 at 9:30am, here at the SWCD office. Having a board member participate would be great.

Member Reports

Kiecker: No Report

Balstad: AgMBP Meeting

Pederson: SHR 1W1P Policy Meeting

Sonsteli: No Report

Vettleson: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- Clearwater 1W1P Policy Meeting
- WCA Training – Bemidji
- SHR 1W1P Policy Meeting
- Clearwater 1W1P Work Group Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and deposits
- Board meeting prep
- Intern Position – Filled
- Projects: Three new requests
- Envirothon Funding

WCA:

- TEP Meeting with Steve
- TEP Meeting with Steve & Stephanie Klamm, DNR

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- AIS Webinar

- CFO Webex
- BWSR Spring Training

Buffers:

- Buffer Policy Update Meeting
- BuffCAT Updates

Trees:

- 101 orders, 7945 trees sold
- Invoices
- Order tracking

Water Quality:

- Lake gauge report of damages/repair

Feedlots:

- Site Inquiry
- ArcMap for County

Other:

- Lake Leader Design
- WCA Inquiry Maps

Gabby:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Coffee and Cover Crops Meeting
- RCPP 2025 Eligibility Review Meeting
- Cover Crop Summit Becker SWCD
- RCPP Eligibility Training
- BWSR Spring Training
- Soil Health Duplicate Practice Review with Laura
- MOSH LGU Call

Soil Health:

- Soil Health 2026 Applications
 - o 37 Cover Crop Applicants
 - o 7 No-Till Applicants
- Soil Health Contracts, Mapping, and Paperwork

Water Quality:

- Lake gauge checks

Other:

- Envirothon Wildlife Station Prep

AgBMP Report:

Open Discussion:

Next Meeting May 21, 2026 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:26 am by Kiecker, Seconded by Sonstelie.


Secretary

5-21-2026
Date

