

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District August 15th, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Meeting called to order at 8:41 am by Chairman Pederson

Motion to approve August 15, 2024 Agenda. Motion by Kiecker, Second by Vettleson.

Secretary's Report:

Approve July 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Kiecker.

Financials:

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

Old Business:

New Business:

Approve payment for Cost Share Contract, CS-24-11, for Michael Voxland's No Till contract. Total project cost is \$3200. He No Till 80 acres of soybeans on May 17th, 2024. The total encumbered amount was \$3200, and these funds will come from Soil Health Cost Share 2023 and Conservation Contracts 2024. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Approve payment for Cost Share Contract, CS-24-12, for Glenda Strand's well sealing. Total project cost is \$1,000. 50% is \$500. Encumbered amount was \$500. This project is funded by Cost Share 2022 and Cost Share 2023. Motion by Vettleson, Second by Balstad.

Approve encumbering funds for Cost Share Contract CS-24-13 for Kris Rue's cover crop application. He will be doing 80 acres in Lessor 23 & 29. This project totals \$3200 and will be funded by Conservation Contract 2024. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Approve encumbering funds for Cost Share Contract CS-24-14 for Don Magnusson's Conservation Cover (Rain Garden) application on Union Lake. Total project cost is \$10,600. 75% cost share is \$7,950. This will be funded by Conservation Contract 2024 & 2025. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Approve encumbering funds for Cost Share Contract CS-24-15 for Mark Nelson's cover crop application. He will be doing 80 acres in Lessor 29. This project totals \$3200 and will be funded by Conservation Contract 2025. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Approve Rebecca Moe's, CS-24-01, Shoreline Restoration Amendment for the Cost Share Application's expiration date. This project was supposed to be completed this fall but has been pushed back by the contractor. The current expiration date is 12/31/2024. The updated expiration date will be 12/31/2025. These funds will be from Soil Health 2024. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Discuss Soil Health Policy and the no fall tillage prior to planting the cover crop requirement. Motion to amend the policy to state that fall tillage is allowed for the cover crop practice standard. Motion by Balstad, Second by Vettleson.

Discuss authorizing Rachel to sign off on encumbering funds on certain practices. (No-Till, Cover Crops, etc.) This would be when time sensitive projects like Cover Crop this fall and No-Till application this spring that need approval sooner than a board meeting to meet practices standards and be eligible for funding. These applications will still be presented to the board at the following meeting. Motion to authorize Rachel Klein to sign off on encumber funds for the No-Till and Cover Crop Applications if they are time sensitive and need to be approved before the next board meeting. Motion by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Cover Crop/No Till/Other Soil Health JAA – Rachel. Discussion was had on how to get authorization for someone to sign off on soil health practices. Rachel talked to Chester with the Clearwater SWCD and they are happy to do our Soil Health Program and Chester has JAA to sign off on Cover Crop and No Till Practices. Rachel will work on the agreement with the Clearwater SWCD and bring that to the next board meeting for approval.

Motion to approve the SWCD Aid Resolution by Kiecker, Second by Balstad.

NRBG Funds Update: The funds were received. Discussion was had on the upcoming County Board Meeting and the budget request Rachel is prepping.

Reports:

NRCS Report: No Report

Member Reports

Balstad: North Pod and Full RRVCSA Meeting

Kiecker: No Report

Pederson: AIS Meeting and Determination of Benefits Meeting for the Sand Hill Ditch

Vettleson: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- WCA Statute Change Webinar
- Clearwater 1W1P Workgroup Meeting
- Successful Outreach Strategies
- North Pod Meeting
- RRVCSA Meeting
- Manager Meeting
- AIS Meeting
- SHR 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and board meeting prep
- NRBG Report
- County Board Meeting Prep
- Cameron Lake Competitive Grant Application

- Cost Share Applications and Inquiries
- Soil Health Delivery Grant Agreement Signed

WCA:

- Multiple Inquiries & Site Visits

Marea:

Meetings/Training:

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:

- Bruce Roed Year 5 Site Inspection for Rain Garden and Shoreline Restoration
- Eric and Andrew Bakke Year 1 Site Inspection for Shoreline Restoration

Other:

- Lake Monitoring
- OB Wells

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- AIS Meeting
- Re-determination of Benefits Meeting

Buffers:

- Landowner Meeting / site visit
- Validation of Compliance Letter
- Seed discussion with Landowner

Water Quality:

- Stream Monitoring
- Lake Levels
- Rainfall data

Other:

- Website Updates
- Feedlot – documents uploaded
- Program discussion with landowners
- Fall Newsletter
- Inquiry of Data – USFWS
- CRP Vegetation Surveys

Emily: (Intern) – Last Day was August 9th

- Updating BuffCat
- Lake Monitoring
- Stream Monitoring & Lake Levels
- CRP Vegetation Surveys
- WCA Site Visits
- Ob Wells

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:

Audit: The audit deadline was June 30th and to this date nothing has been submitted. Rachel talked to Joise earlier in August and she had said her goal was to be done by August 9th but there's still nothing submitted.

Next Meeting September 19th, 2024 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 11:00 am by Balstad, Second by Kiecker.

Secretary

Date

DRAFT