

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District March 10, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Meeting called to order at 8:35 am by Chairman Pederson

Approve the March 10, 2026 Agenda. Motion by Sonstelie, Seconded by Kiecker.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the February 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Sonstelie, Seconded by Balstad.

Financials:

Approve the February Financial Report & Treasurer's Reports, subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Old Business:

New Business:

Approve updates to the Soil Health Policy Eligibility: Staff reviewed different examples of eligibility questions that have been received. To be eligible for the Soil Health Program producers should certify their own acres and have their own entity with FSA. This follows what FSA/NRCS does for contracts. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Balstad.

Approve Rachel to have authorization to sign Soil Health Contracts. All contracts will be reported to the Board the following month. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Vettleson.

Approve Richard Balstad's well sealing contract, CS-26-13. Total project cost is \$2,265.00. 50% is \$1,132.50. This project will be funded by Conservation Contracts 2026. Motion by Vettleson, Seconded by Kiecker. Scott Balstad abstained.

Reports:

NRCS: During meeting I discussed in general how Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding works. In general, it's a partner-driven approach to leverage resources and implement conservation projects. An entity would develop a project proposal and apply. Once NRCS selects a project there are predetermined funds over a 5-year period that NRCS and the partner will put towards implementation. For MN's Soil Health RCPP this is being funneled through BWSR. The 1st couple of years were to bring on staff and get the program up and running. This and last year's funds are primarily for implementing practices. Once those funds

are used up, they are gone. I'm not sure of a mechanism to ask for more funding on an active RCPP. It may be that BWSR (or some other entity) needs to apply for RCPP again.

Member Reports

Kiecker: No Report

Balstad: North Pod Meeting, RRVCSA Meeting, AgMBP Meeting

Pederson: No Report

Sonstelie: No Report

Vettleson: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- North Pod Meeting
- RRVCSA 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

Feedlot:

- Year End Review

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- AIS Webinar
- CFO Webex

Buffers:

Trees:

- 93 orders, 7520 trees sold
- Invoices
- Order tracking

Water Quality:

- Lake gauge report of damages/repair

Feedlots:

- Notice of Completed Registration Letters
- Year End Review

Other:

- Lake Leader Design

Gabby:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Tech Note 31 Training and Prerequisite Training
- Wind Erosion Webinars
- Strategic Farming Webinars
- Soil Health RCPP Meeting
- Engineer Meeting

Soil Health:

- Soil Health 2026 Applications
 - o 24 Cover Crop Applicants
 - o 7 No-Till Applicants
- Soil Health Contracts, Mapping, and Paperwork
- Posted Signs for Coffee and Cover Crops

Other:

- 2025 Rain Data Submitted

AgBMP Report: Annual Meeting at 10am following the board meeting.

Open Discussion:

Next Meeting April 16, 2026 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 9:49 am by Kiecker, Seconded by Sonsteli.



Secretary



Date