

EAST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2017

Board Members Present: Al Bauer, Ken Pederson, and Bruce Grundyson. Absent: Larry Vettleson and Scott Balstad.

Others Present: Lisa Newton-District Manager, Karla Byklum-Administrative Assistant, Sarah Mielke-District Technician, Jim Schwab-NRCS, and Joan Lee-Polk County Commissioner.

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Secretary Al Bauer.

Motion to approve the Agenda: Bruce Grundyson, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the November 16, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes: Bruce Grundyson, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the November 2017 Financial Report: Bruce Grundyson, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

NRCS Report:

Jim Schwab, NRCS DC in Hallock, is filling in for Jenny Burrack. Has been doing a lot of CSP and EQIP contracts, total of 55 EQIP applications for East Polk. 92 CRP contracts will expire in September 2018. NRCS will only be hiring 4 people for 2018. Cathee Pullman, NRCS State Conservationist, is off on medical leave. The Area Office in Thief River Falls currently has staff of 7 people.

Member Report:

Pederson attended the MASWCD 81st Annual Convention in Bloomington, MN December 3rd-5th. Dr. Richard Cruse, Iowa State University, Department of Agronomy: Why Conserving Minnesota's Soil and Water Resources is a Global Necessity was very good. Dan Wilkens from the Sand Hill Watershed District will be retiring. There will be an increase in the 2018 MASWCD dues. Paul Krabbenhoft, MASWCD Northwest Area 1 Director, was awarded the Outstanding SWCD Supervisor for the year. Peter Mead, Becker SWCD Manager, was awarded the Conservation District Employee Award. Attended Newton and Byklum review's for 2017 on December 8th, which had an overall performance of excellent for both of them.

Bauer reported attending staff reviews for Newton and Byklum on December 8th.

Joan Lee reported they have been finalizing the 2018 Polk County budget. Budgeted expenditures is 65 million. Partial remodeling of the East Grand Forks Human Services building. Social Services struggles because of increasing needs and expenses.

Staff Report:

Newton has been working on the 2018 budget with Byklum, doing some reporting in ELink, Buffer letters for the Public Waters have been mailed out to landowners with a waiver form and maps of the areas in question.

Byklum reported that 500 trees are ordered to date. Working on Rainfall Monitoring paperwork, bookkeeping, and monthly year end financials. Reported that some districts hire Michal Peterson CPA to do the year end financials that's due to BWSR on March 15, 2018. The cost to have them complete the bookkeeping will be \$1,000.00.

Mielke reported attending several meetings. A Feedlot meeting was held in Thief River Falls on November 28th. An AIS meeting in Crookston on December 11th. A MAWQCP meeting in McIntosh on November 30th. Will be attending the Polk County Commissioner meeting that will be held on December 19th to report on the Feedlot agreement that needs to be signed.

Old Business:

Motion by Ken Pederson to keep Newton and Byklum wages the same for 2018 and give Sarah Mielke a \$.25 raise starting January 1, 2018. Seconded by Bruce Grundyson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

District Technician position will be discussed later in the board meeting.

Al Bauer reported on quotes for a seeder for buffers. The board reviewed the quotes and is looking at the quote from Timmer Implement for a Brillion 8 foot for \$12,200.00. After discussion the board will table this until next month board meeting.

Newton reported on the shared Engineer position. After board discussion, we will not participate.

New Business:

Motion by Ken Pederson to approve the USDA/NRCS Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners. Seconded by Bruce Grundyson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Pederson to approve the City of McIntosh rent for 2018 for \$2,773.80. Seconded by Bruce Grundyson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Pederson to approve Sundrud Farms (Mike & Ordean) AgBMP Loan Application for a John Deere Self Propelled Sprayer for \$100,000.00. Seconded by Bruce Grundyson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Bruce Grundyson to approve payment to John Balstad (2016 Cost Share Funds). Cost of Practice is \$5,502.50, Program Cost Share Payment \$4,126.88, Owner Cost \$1,375.62. Seconded by Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.


Motion by Bruce Grundyson to approve payment to Rosebud Township for Weed Management. Cost of Practice \$3,930.86, Landowner Cost 982.71, District Share at 75% \$2,948.15. Seconded by Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

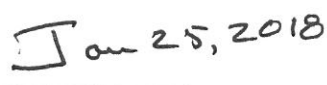
Motion by Ken Pederson to hire Michael Peterson CPA to do the year end financials for 2017. Seconded by Bruce Grundyson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Bruce Grundyson to interview Rachel Klein to discuss options for the District Technician position, and to send letters to decline the other 4 applicants. Seconded by Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Next board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25th, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. Ken Pederson. Seconded by Bruce Grundyson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.


Secretary


Date