

EAST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2016

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

Others Present: Lisa Newton-District Manager, Karla Byklum-Administrative Assistant, Rachel Elshaug-Area Certification Specialist, Jenny Burrack-NRCS, and Brandon DeFoe-Area 1 Soil Scientist.

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Grundyson.

Motion to approve the November 17, 2016 minutes as corrected: Scott Balstad, Seconded: Larry Vettleson. Approved-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the November 2016 Financial Report: Scott Balstad, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Approved-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

NRCS Reports:

Burrack has been very busy with year-end deadlines and working on CSP renewals.

Brandon DeFoe did a presentation on the Web Soil Survey.

Member Reports:

Balstad reported on the upcoming Targeted Watershed Open House meeting that will be held at the McIntosh Community Center on Thursday, December 15th starting at 5:30 p.m.

Pederson reported on the MASWCD Annual Meeting & Trade Show that was held in Bloomington, MN December 4th-6th. Sessions that were held were regarding buffers, communications, 1W1P, and funding. Dues will be going down next year. Kurt Beckstrom was elected as the new MASWCD President.

Staff Reports:

Elshaug reported that the feedlot inspections are almost completed. Ten certifications are completed for the MAWQCP.

Byklum reported her and Newton had a conference call with Zach Hermann on November 28th regarding the Targeted Watershed Grant. Attended the Annual Convention & Trade Show in Bloomington. Have received 13 tree orders for next year.

Newton reported on attending the Annual Convention & Trade Show December 4th-6th. Has been busy with WCA, employee reviews, and preparing the budget for 2017. Houston Engineering has not completed the PTM map for the Targeted Watershed Grant.

Old Business:

Vettleson will be bringing the tractor/loader/tree planter soon.

New Business:

Board reviewed and discussed the David Johnstad Union Lake Sand Beach Blanket application, which was to allow the purchase of wetland credits for the after-the-fact impact to Type 2 and 3 lake-fringe wetlands. The after-the-fact impact was created by the placement of sand fill in fringe wetlands. TEP Recommendations and Findings, and comments were also reviewed and discussed. Motion by Ken Pederson to follow the TEP recommendation and deny the application. Seconded: Al Bauer. Affirmative – all. Opposed – none. Motion carried.

Rachel Elshaug's letter of resignation was shown to the board. Ken Pederson makes a motion to accept her resignation with regret and to wish her the best. Seconded by Scott Balstad. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

The Medica Choice Passport 2000/0 HSA Gold health insurance was reviewed. The monthly premium is estimated at \$1,565.49 through Lindfors Insurance Agency in Fosston. Ken Pederson makes a motion for the district to discontinue the \$3.88/hour/employee fringe benefit (when the health insurance comes into effect) and for the district to pay the monthly premium for the Medica group health insurance and to review it annually. Seconded by Al Bauer. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Personnel committee met with Newton and Byklum this morning. Ken Pederson makes a motion to increase the District Manager to \$3.50/hour and the Administrative Assistant to \$2.50/hour. Seconded by Scott Balstad. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

District Technician position was discussed. Scott Balstad makes a motion to advertise for a part time District Technician position for 1 week in the surrounding area newspapers. Seconded by Larry Vettleson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Newton reported that Marcie Weinandt, Minnesota Department of Ag, would like to wait until January 2017 to hire anyone for the MAWQCP position.

Motion by Larry Vettleson to discuss possibly hiring a full time District Technician in January 2017. Seconded by Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Pederson to approve the Government Data Practices. Seconded by Larry Vettleson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Larry Vettleson to pay the City of McIntosh \$1,710.00 for the new lease agreement for 2017. Seconded by Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

East Polk SWCD doesn't have a logo, Joni Anderson from Grygla has drawn a few different designs for the board to review. Consensus was to have the SWCD staff decide.

Next board meeting will be held January 19, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. Lawrence Vettleson, Seconded: Al Bauer. Motion carried.



Secretary

Jan 19, 2017

Date