

East Polk Soil & Water Conservation District January 15, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Meeting called to order at 8:34 am by Chairman Pederson

Reorganization of the Board

Officers

Chairman: Ken Pederson

Vice Chairman: Kory Sonstelie

Treasurer: David Kiecker

Secretary: Scott Balstad

PR/Equipment: Larry Vettleson

District Representatives

Personnel Committee (2 members): Ken Pederson & Scott Balstad

RRVCSA (1 member with alternate): Scott Balstad

AgBMP (1 member): Scott Balstad

LWMP/Water Plan (1 member): Kory Sonstelie

Property Committee (2 members): Dave Kiecker & Larry Vettleson

Policy Committee (2 members): Scott Balstad & Larry Vettleson

AIS (1 member): Ken Pederson

Approve the January 15, 2025 Agenda. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Secretary's Report:

Approve the December 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion by Kiecker, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Financials:

Approve the December 2025 Financial & Treasurer's Reports, subject to revisions. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Old Business:

New Business:

Designate the 13 Towns and Fertile Journal as the Official Newspaper. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Designate First National Bank as Official Depository. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Designate Day, Time, and Location for Monthly Meetings. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Approve payment of the MASWCD Dues of \$5,616.59. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment of the MCIT Insurance Premium of \$8,400. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment of the RRVCSA Local Match Requirement of \$2,313.00. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Approve payment of the Peterson Company of \$5,000.00. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Sonstelie.

Annual Planning Meeting set for February 12th following the Regular Meeting.

Approve IRS Mileage Rate. Effective January 1, 2026, rate is .725 cents per mile. Motion by Balstad, Seconded by Kiecker.

Reports:

NRCS: All CSP payments for activities implemented during FY25 have gone out. We are still awaiting guidance on FY2026 program implementation (EQIP & CSP). There are 59 EQIP applications & 13 CSP applications that'll need planning this funding cycle. Due to a retirement, the West Polk DC will be detailed to another team.

Member Reports

Kiecker: No Report

Balstad: No Report. Upcoming East Polk Crop Improvement on January 26, 2026 at the McIntosh Community Center.

Pederson: No Report

Sonstelie: No Report

Staff Reports

Rachel:

Meetings/Training:

- SHR 1W1P Project Management Meeting

Admin:

- Payroll, month end, bills, and deposits
- Board meeting prep
- eLink Reporting
- Newsletters

WCA:

- TEP Meetings with Steve
- Year End Reporting

Feedlot:

- Year End reporting
- Inspections

Jenna:

Meetings/Trainings:

- Feedlot CFO Webex

Buffers:

- End of year parcel review and status update

Water Quality:

Feedlots:

- Registration
- Notice of Completed Registration Letter

Other:

- Fall Newsletter
- No Till Sign Design
- RLWD Logo Design

Gabby:

Meetings/Trainings:

- MOSH LGU Soil Health Meeting
- Cover Crop Weed Control Webinars

Soil Health:

- Soil Health 2026 Applications

Water Quality:

Other:

- JAA Certification Projects
- Newsletter folding

AgBMP Report: Back to a wait list.

Open Discussion:

Next Meeting February 12, 2025 at 8:30am

Motion to adjourn at 10:28 am by Kiecker, Seconded by Balstad.



Secretary

Date

