

EAST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
July 14 2016

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

Others Present: Lisa Newton-Manager, Karla Byklum-Administrative Assistant, Rachel Elshaug-Area Certification Specialist, Joan Lee-Polk County Commissioner, and Jane White-Conservation Corps. Apprentice, and James Hest-RRVCSA.

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Vettleson.

Motion to approve the July 14, 2016 minutes as written: Scott Balstad, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Approved-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the May 2016 Financial Report: Al Bauer, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Approved-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

**NRCS Reports:**

None

**Member Reports:**

Pederson reported on attending the Area 1 meeting in Detroit Lakes on June 21<sup>st</sup>. He also stopped by the Polk County Fair and looked at the East Polk SWCD fair booth.

Balstad reported on the SHWD meeting and came into the office to comment on the buffer map. He inquired about the three CD's that are at the First National Bank/McIntosh on the interest rate we are currently getting and check with Ultima Bank to compare rates.

Hest reported on being very busy with several projects. Marshall SWCD and Red Lake SWCD have received some grants for projects that he is busy doing. He has projects to sign for Mike Vig, Mike Grandbois, and Steve Ness/Isaac Ness.

**Staff Reports:**

White has been working on water monitoring once a week and has been working on the Weed Management Grant mapping weeds in the townships.

Elshaug has two new applications for the MAWQCP for Norman SWCD and Pennington SWCD. She has 7 waiting on review from MDA. Feedlot review went good. Will be talking with Nicole

from West Polk SWCD on feedlot inspections (about 70 for East Polk) that are up for re-registration next year.

Byklum attended the RRVCSA meeting in Mahanomen on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Mary Steinlicht (RRVCSA GIS Specialist) will be calling the districts to set up a meeting date/training for the equipment that she'll be bringing. There was a lot of discussion on having our own server, rather than being connected to the NRCS server. Bryan Malone, Peter Mead, and Darren Newville will be on a committee to look into getting our own server and will be reporting back. Attended the Area 1 meeting in Detroit Lakes. Was at the Administrative Training in Bemidji June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. On July 13<sup>th</sup> Marcie Weinandt was here from MDA to meet with staff and ask how the MAWQCP was going and financial questions. A buffer article was put in the Tri-County Canary informing people to come into the office to review the buffer map and to submit any comments that they have regarding the map.

Newton reported there is some financing available for wells through the AgBMP Loan Program. It is only for wells that need to be repaired or replaced, not for new wells. Informed the board she backed into the Inter County Community Council car on June 16<sup>th</sup> leaving a very small dent in the car and no damage to the district pickup. On Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> Elshaug and White were at the fair booth at the Polk County Fair in Fertile and on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> Newton and Byklum were going to be at the fair booth, but due to car trouble were unable to. Will be applying for the CWF grant that is open until August 8<sup>th</sup>. Will be setting up an appointment with the County Attorney to help draft a MOU for the Targeted Watershed Grant. Will be attending a John Jasche session in East Grand Forks on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, buffer meeting in Thief River Falls on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a Groundwater meeting in Thief River Falls on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Old Business:**

Vettleson has washed the tractor and will be getting the loader at Gary Lee's house. The power take off is not working, the board has decided not to fix it and sell it as is. He will bring it back to the office sometime next week.

#### **New Business:**

Motion by Ken Pederson to approve Ron Tradewell payment of \$287.50 out of the Capacity funds for Well Sealing Contract #WS-01-16, total project amount is \$575.00. Seconded by Scott Balstad. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Scott Balstad to approve Joel Strom abandon Well Sealing at 50% cost share, the total estimate is \$520.00. Seconded by Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Board discussion on Weed Management Grant contracts. Consensus was to use half the money this year and half next year to split it up.

Ken Pederson reported that the Personnel Committee met with Elshaug before the board meeting today and she is meeting and exceeding doing her MAWQCP/Area Certification Specialist job. It was decided to table giving her raise at this time being her District Technician position will be up for review in mid-October. In November the Personnel Committee will review all employees' wages.

Motion by Ken Pederson to approve encumbering CWF 2014 funds for:

Steve Ness, Woodside 34, CWA-14-19 total project cost \$22,000.00, total amount approved \$13,200.00

Mike Grandbois, Sletten 10, CWA-14-18 total project cost \$49,000.00, total amount approved \$29,400.00

Mike Vig, Sletten 25, CWA-14-17-total project cost \$6,000.00, total amount approved \$3,600.00

Seconded by Al Bauer. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion by Ken Pederson to pay Jeff Matson \$8,372.38 with 75% cost share payment of \$6,279.29. Seconded by Scott Balstad. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.


Newton reported that the workload at the district will increase significantly when the Targeted Watershed Grant begins. She would like to hire someone for contracted services to help assist with the workload. The board suggested to get the Personnel Committee together to review and discuss it. Newton will be contacting them to schedule a time to meet before the next board meeting.

Barry Halland, cabin owner at Lake Sarah, is challenging his wetland determination. He would like to build a garage on his property but part of it has been designated as a wetland. Newton has been checking his well out on his property, lake levels, and rainfall amounts. Steve Hofstad, BWSR Wetlands Specialist, is also assisting Newton on this.

Due to the weather, it was decided to cancel the pontoon ride this afternoon.

Next board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Al Bauer, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Motion carried.

  
Secretary

July 28, 2014  
Date