

EAST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2018

Board Members Present: Al Bauer, Larry Vettleon, Ken Pederson, Scott Balstad
Absent: Bruce Grundyson

Others Present: Lisa Erckson, District Manager, Rachel Klein, District Technician, Sarah Mielke
District Technician, Joan Lee, Polk County Commissioner, Luke Klawitter, NRCS.

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

Motion to approve agenda with addition of Mielke resignation: Pederson, Seconded: Bauer.
Affirmative – all.

Motion to approve the June 21, 2018 regular meeting minutes as written: Bauer, Second:
Pederson. Affirmative – all.

No financial report available.

NRCS report:

Working on CSP and CRP field checks, there were 93 CRP contracts that expired. There is a
Continuous CRP signup but no general.

Member reports:

Al Bauer – Vesledahl Wetland Bank site meeting with BWSR. It was reported at the meeting
that the culverts within the site are 18” higher than what was originally designed; BWSR will be
working on having them lowered. Nothing resolved with the State turning over the site to the
Sand Hill River Watershed or the proposed legal ditch system.

Larry Vettleon – No report

Scott Balstad – Attended the RRVCSA meeting in June.

Ken Pederson – Attended the Personnel Committee meeting to review applications and
conduct interviews.

Staff Reports:

Lisa Erickson – Working on hiring of new Administrative Assistant, preparing for the financial
audit with Peterson that will be July 24, 2018 in the a.m. Working on WCA violations, mainly on
lakeshore property.

Rachel Klein – Have been assisting with lake monitoring, WCA, and attended MAWQCP training.
Buffers is still a big part of the workload.

Sarah Mielke – Attended Q & A meeting at the Union/Lake Sarah Campground for the
shoreland restoration project underway. Some campers were for and other against. Prairie
Restorations will begin spraying towards the end of July and then work on seeding. Created a
Raingarden brochure and worked on setting up and working at the fair booth. Attended the

Maple Lake Development meeting. There was a big turnout with people concerned over development on the lake and algae and weed problems. Sarah presented information on the benefits of shoreline restoration and raingardens, three individuals have called with interest in restoring their shoreline. Corey Hanson, RLWD presented information on low levels of Cyanobacteria found in the lake. Rainbarrel workshop was cancelled, but one barrel was sold.

Old Business:

Resignation – The board was presented with the resignation of Sarah Mielke, District Technician. Motion to accept resignation: Pederson, Second: Vettleson. Affirmative – all.

Administrative Assistant Position and Technician Position – Personnel Committee reviewed applications and conducted interviews for the Administrative Assistant position and had two good candidates. After being informed of the District Technician resignation the Personnel Committee met before the board meeting to discuss options. The committee proposed to hire Jenna Schommer at 32 hours/week at \$16.00/hour with a 6-month probationary period, and Kelsey Hedlund was offered the District Technician position at 40 hours/week at \$17.00 with a 6 month probationary period. Motion to accept personnel committee recommendation: Bauer, Second: Pederson. Affirmative – all.

New Business:

Review health insurance policy and full-time position policy – Motion by Bauer to change wording of Group Insurance policy to “Group Insurance – Full time employees are eligible for single coverage insurance with premium covered by the district; family coverage is available to full-time employees with additional cost at employee’s expense.” Second: Pederson. Affirmative – All. Full-time position policy – tabled.

Rainbarrel cost-share reimbursement – Rainbarrel was purchased for \$80 by Sherrie Thompson, requesting 50% cost-share for rainbarrel. Motion by Pederson to provide 50% cost-share (\$40) to Thompson for rainbarrel. Second: Bauer. Affirmative – all.

Rachel’s 6-month review – Personnel Committee with meet with Klein after the board meeting for review. Motion to give Personnel Committee authority to approve/deny review and possible raise for Klein: Pederson, Second: Bauer. Affirmative – all.

Other – Parking Lot – Bauer reported that the City of McIntosh would like to pave the parking lot. Motion to approve the City of McIntosh paving the portion of the parking lot on district property: Bauer, Second: Vettleson. Affirmative – all. Al will contact the mayor.

AgBMP Loan – Motion to approve AgBMP loan for Bauer Farms for no-till drill: Pederson, Second: Balstad. Affirmative – All.

Next meeting August 16, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion to adjourn at 10:15 a.m.: Pederson, Second: Bauer. Affirmative – all.

DRAFT