

EAST POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 15, 2018

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

Others Present: Lisa Erickson-District Manager, Karla Byklum-Administrative Assistant, Sarah Mielke-District Technician, Rachel Klein-District Technician, Joan Lee-Polk County Commissioner, Corey Hanson-RLWD, and Luke Klawitter-NRCS.

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

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

Motion to approve the February 15, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes: Larry Vettleson, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the February 2018 Financial Report: Larry Vettleson, Seconded: Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

**NRCS Report:**

Luke Klawitter reported it will be a busy spring. The deadline for CRP contracts was March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Has been working on 30 CSP contracts. FSA and state offices are reviewing at the CRP rate in the area. Curtis Elke, State Conservationist in Idaho, is acting State Conservationist in Minnesota for NRCS.

Scott Balstad arrived at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Scott Balstad took over the meeting.

**Member Report:**

Vettleson attended the ditch meeting in Gully.

Bauer attended the Vesledahl meeting in Winger. Another meeting is scheduled for tonight at 7:00 p.m.

Balstad asked the Fosston School why they are not attending the Envirothon, they said it's a lot of dedication and after school meetings. Ranjit Riar, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Department/UMC, did a presentation on GMO's. He was a good speaker that spoke on both sides of the subject.

Pederson attended the MASWCD Legislative Briefing Day in St. Paul March 12-13. It was well attended. He meet with Deb Kiel and Mark Johnson.

**Staff Report:**

Klein reported on working on Buffers, 80 are non-compliant and 125 have signed up for site reviews in the spring.

Mielke attended Water Monitoring training at UMC on February 21 and We-are-Water on February 22. Working on articles for the upcoming newsletter and getting information ready for the Polk County Fair booth for July 11-15. Will be setting up a rain barrel workshop in McIntosh this summer. Is also working with Blaine Keller, Prairie Restorations, to do a presentation on shoreline restorations and raingardens for the public to see the benefits of native landscaping.

Larry Vettleson makes a motion to order 150 trees for \$200.00 for Arbor Day to give trees to the kindergarten students in our area. Seconded by Ken Pederson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Byklum attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Red River Basin Water Quality Monitoring Training at UMC on February 21. Trees ordered to date are 4,550. We were notified from BWSR that we are required to have an audit for 2017, Peterson Company LTD year-end audit fee will be \$2,225.

Erickson is working on the 2020-2021 Biennial Budget Request that's due April 12. Working on Rachel and Sarah's Technical Training Individual Development Plans. Went to Crookston on March 8 for the TEP meeting. Upcoming meetings are the Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on March 28 in Crookston. The Northwest Area 1 meeting is at UMC on March 20.

**Old Business:**

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator/Red Lake Watershed District, had a presentation on Categorization and Prioritization of Streams for Restoration and Protection.

Al Bauer will take to Mayor Toby Strom about the wall and door to be installed in the Bjella Building.

If anyone from the district would like to rent a seeder for buffers, Clearwater SWCD will rent to landowners in Polk County, the landowners will have to pick it up from them in Bagley.

Minkota Technologies said there is a lot of space on the server for uploading files. No fireproof cabinet will be purchased.

**New Business:**

Annual Planning meeting discussion. District Annual Plan Action Items are attached.

Larry Vettleson makes a motion for Raingardens and Shoreline Restoration at 50% cost share with a maximum of \$2,000.00, as a case by case basis. Seconded by Al Bauer. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

Next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Ken Pederson. Seconded by Larry Vettleson. Affirmative-all. Opposed-none. Motion carried.

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*Ken Pederson*

Secretary

*4/19/18*

Date