

**Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.
Meeting Minutes**

January 20, 2022 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson, Seth Jones

Supervisors: Toby Hall, Mike Pouch, Jensen Bissell, Sue Mackey Andrews,

Assoc. Supervisors: Sam Brown, Amber Hines, Donna Coffin

Guest Speakers: Brittany Hummel - NRCS

The Meeting was conducted via Teams and recorded and can be obtained by contacting PCSWCD.

Establish a Quorum: With a quorum established, Chair Toby Hall opened the meeting at 4:02 pm.

Guest Speakers - Seth introduced **Brittany Hummel** and reviewed her 10 year career with the agency including her time in the field, including time as District Conservationist and the state office before taking her position as State Conservationist for Field Operations. Brittany discussed coming changes in cooperative and contribution agreements. A Memorandum Of Agreement will be coming out for review by the Districts. The MOA combines all pertinent policy and procedural elements related to the agreements. The next step will be to complete the unfunded cooperative agreement. Funded agreements would be the final step. The agreements are now standardized and opportunities to modify or change them will be very limited.

District Conservationist Report: Seth discussed his current effort on the EQIP work as well as his work on the cooperative agreements - aiming for the June 30 deadline for granted agreements. Seth and Brittany talked about the push for partnerships. Sarah expressed the need to increase the District's capacity for education outreach citing the District's previous work and the demonstrated need in the County. Sue asked for some examples of community partners. Seth stated the District added the Maine Forest Service. Brittany explained that the NRCS is very much in the exploratory phase of defining partnerships, including working with the University to partner on Urban Agriculture and Climate Change. Seth mentioned a partnership with TNC on waterway passage in the Bangor area. Sue encouraged thinking about a partnership with the State Park. Donna asked if educational outreach program requests need to be tied to existing NRCS programs. Brittany and Seth agreed that it does, but the agency is involved in a wide range of programs and initiatives and tying a request to an existing effort is often not that difficult.

Treasurer's Report: Toby asked for a vote on the December Treasurer's Report. **A motion and second were provided to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.** Sarah then explained that Kacey has not been able to work her full allotment of hours on the NRCS contract, but has worked more than her allotment for District hours. This was a result primarily from the necessity to work remotely during the quarantine in combination with a misunderstanding on how to clock the time between the District and NRCS. Sarah has talked with Kacey about how to correct this issue going forward. Toby moved the motion. **The motion was passed unanimously** . (see data below). **Sarah then explained that with Amber's resignation, a new Treasurer is needed. Jensen is willing to serve. A motion was made and seconded to place Jensen in the position as Treasurer for the District. The motion passed unanimously.**

New Business: Sarah requested a vote on a revised, more specific, budget that reflects a higher anticipated surplus. Sarah expects a higher revenue from programs and workshops. Jensen asked about the envirothon. Sarah stated there are no teams involved in Piscataquis but the District will attend the event at Leonard's Mill. This will be a cost. The consensus among the Supervisors is that this is a worthwhile experience for future events in the District. Jensen also asked about expenditures for the new building at the Law Farm. **Motion to accept the revised budget is moved and seconded. Vote is unanimous.**

Board Development: Sarah requested that the 4 members who haven't returned a poll, please do so soon so the results can be tabulated.

Board Member Outreach: Sue has been working with a local school district on an after school program proposal and has added the Districts educational services to the grant. Donna related that Sarah attended a seminar on veterinary forensic pathology. Mike met with Sarah and Nicole Rogers from UMO regarding a silviculture 101 event that the District will hold in May. Jensen related that he skied the Law Farm trail today. Toby took six credits out of the agricultural trade show. Climate change was a consistent topic.

Other Business: Sarah related information on several items including board position upcoming term-out dates and the need to ensure a quorum in the coming months as Toby will not be making all the meetings. Sarah related the minimum wage announcement from Bangor Savings, information only. Sarah also let the Board know that she had signed off on the review, with a short timeline, on the Big Lake Development project in Greenville. Sarah had requested, and received a detailed sheet of comments from Emily. Jensen briefly reviewed the summary of historical harvest data on the Bailey Hill and Demo Forest lots. Some discussion ensued including a suggestion that the District consider a Continuous Forest Inventory on the two lots to better define growth, mortality and stand composition changes on the lots over time.

Consent agenda: Toby read the items on the consent agenda and asked for a motion. Motion and second to accept the consent agenda as presented. **Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented is moved and seconded. Vote is unanimous.**

Upcoming Events: Winter tree pre-sale begins tomorrow. Kacey was interviewed on Fox News for the Piscataquis pest webinar. Len Price will be included at the Community Forestry meeting in February to discuss planting more Christmas trees at the Law Farm. Stephanie Hewitt from AFLAC will be joining the Feb Board meeting to discuss an offer for a group rate on life insurance and a parental leave package. Steve Tatko's attendance is likely to decrease in 2022 due to other overlapping meeting commitments. Sarah discussed Families in the Outdoors upcoming program.

Sue asked about Emily's baby. Bennett, 9lbs. Soon to be a Junior District Supervisor. Sue also requested that we schedule time in the spring for strategic planning. There being no further business, Toby thanked everyone for their attendance. **Toby moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:53 pm.

Treasurer's Report (See Guest discussion above).

A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report as presented. The vote was unanimous.

PCSWCD Meeting Attendance Record

2022 Attendance	1/20	2/17	3/17	4/21	5/19	6/16	7/21	8/18	9/15	10/20	11/17	12/15
	-											
<i>Staff</i>												
Sarah Robinson Ex Dir	x											
Seth Jones NRCS DS	x											
Kacey Weber	-											
Emily Dickison												

There being no further business, Toby thanked everyone for their attendance.