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

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 17, 2022 at 4:30pm.**

Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson, Seth Jones

Supervisors: Toby Hall, Mike Pounch, Jensen Bissell, Jim Ferrante

Assoc. Supervisors: Sam Brown

Guest Speakers: Stephanie Hewitt - AFLAC

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 4:34 pm.

**Guest Speakers -** Sarah introduced **Stephanie Hewitt** representing AFLAC, provided a presentation on AFLAC as a supplemental insurance offering to employees. Toby canvassed the Supervisors regarding any concerns. No concerns were voiced and Sarah will work with Stephanie and the District employees to determine if the interest in this product is sufficient to pass the minimum requirements for engagement.

**District Conservationist Report:** Seth reported to the Supervisors that he will be attending a 60 day “Detail’ that will take him away from his normal day-to-day duties. The Detail training will broaden his understanding of the scope and procedure of NRCS administration and policy development. He expects to return to his duties in early May. During his training, the District will have access to another District Conservationist if any issues arise. Seth also reported that he expects a “return to office” plan to start to unfold in March detailing policy and guidance for office and in-person contact.

**Treasurers Report:**  Toby asked Jensen for any thoughts on the Treasurers Report. Jensen replied that he is still in the learning phase. Jensen moved that the Treasurers report be accepted as presented. The **motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.**

**New Business:** During the January meeting, Sarah had floated out a possible adjustment to the budget to provide an employee sufficient hours (an additional 7 hours/wk with 75/25 cost share NRCS/District) to move the employee to full time. The item was tabled for further discussion at that time and followed by a subsequent meeting of the Supervisors to further discuss the issue. The discussion resumed at this meeting. The Supervisors recognized the benefit of increasing the employee to full time as soon as possible and identified the need to concentrate on securing more reliable funding to allow this to happen. After a thorough discussion again at this meeting, the concern for secure perpetual funding remained strong and the Supervisors moved to increase the employee’s hours by 2 hours/week as an economically prudent move in the intended direction. **The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.**

**Board Development:** Sarah reviewed the date and place for the scheduled Board Retreat. Bissell Brothers Three Rivers Brewing (business is closed that day, but the space is available). 9am to 4pm on Wednesday, May 18.

**Board Member Outreach:** None reported.

**Other Business:**  Sarah briefed the Supervisors on her annual review input due in March. Sam volunteered to accept and arrange the input by Supervisors based on the format that was used in 2021.Sarah also reported she had completed the Maine Community Foundation grant application for various improvements and programming at the Williamsburg Demonstration Forest. Jensen suggested a further review of the policy for remote meetings that could serve as a more durable policy in a “post pandemic” world. Supervisors agreed this would be worth consideration and Sarah will follow up.

**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.**

There being no further business, **Toby moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**  The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:04 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** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 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 |
| *Supervisors* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Toby Hall, Chair | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Jensen Bissell** | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mike Pounch | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sue Mackey Andrews | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Jim Ferrante** |  | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Associate Supervisors* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sam Brown | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Donna Coffin | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Steve Tatko |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amber Hines | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| *Staff* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sarah Robinson Ex Dir | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seth Jones NRCS DS | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kacey Weber | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Emily Dickison** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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There being no further business, Toby thanked everyone for their attendance.