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

January 12, 2023 at 4pm.

#### Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson, Seth Jones, Kacey Weber

Supervisors: Jensen Bissell, Steve Tatko

Assoc. Supervisors: Sam Brown, Kent Black, Toby Hall, Kim Merritt

Guest Speakers: Marc Warren

The Meeting was conducted via Teams.

**Establish a Quorum:** Chair Jensen Bissell opened the meeting at 4:01 pm. Quorum was established.

**Consent Agenda** - Motion and second to approve the consent agenda. Unanimous to approve. This includes the previous minutes, grant reports and staff reports.

Treasurer's Report - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Repor as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued about the current bookkeeper increasing hours for training and organizing QB.

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**Guest Speakers** - Marc Warren, Stream Restoration Project Manager. Introduction to the Board.

District Conservationist Report - Seth reported that they are working on ranking applications. He shared information on mulching for erosion control, water and soil health practices. They are currently looking at it for not just blueberries, but other applications as well. Seth expressed the value in hearing from producers and how the Local Working Group drives support for current needs. In the past, we have had one Local Working Group meeting a year and that is difficult because there is a lot of informati on to collect and organize. Seth thinks moving forward, we need to break out the Local Working Group into 2 -3 meetings a year and break the information we need to collect into smaller discussions to get the information we really need. He thinks it can be hugely beneficial to NRCS and PCSWCD, as we all need to be in the know about what specifically the local needs and priorities are. Jensen shared information about the Brochu's producing mulch/soil amendments for blueberries and noted it could be a big thing. Toby added that mulching and soil health is going to be and is a current big issue. Seth mentioned mixes used in the past have created issues. NRCS is exploring using 3-part mixes of chips, compost and lime. They are in the process of refining it. Biocha r could be a solution.

#### New Business -

**Cider Pressing:** There was a motion made to approach ESG with the idea of the location of the event and the workload move back and forth. There was a motion and a second. Unanimous.

**Biennial Plan of Operations:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the Biennial Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**2023 Year Plan** & **2023 Workshops & Events Calendar:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the plans as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Maine TREE Teachers Tour**: Sarah asked for Board approval to send Kacey to the July 25th - 28th teacher tour. Board agreed that it offered a worthwhile profession al development and networking opportunity and approved the cost to send Kacey.

Executive Director Report: Finances - just switched over to quickbooks from BSB and it's great. Sarah designed some PCSWCD hats for staff and for a mock up. Ordered through vis ta print. Sarah thinks we should do a preorder through Tree & Plant sale. Sarah will continue to research some local places that could produce the hats. Kacey's health insurance is all set up and we now offer health insurance for all staff. Libra Foundation application was not funded and we will keep them on our radar for future project ideas. TNC news is that we hired Marc and he is doing great! Sarah shared that Kacey, herself and board members Jensen and Kent attended the MACD Meeting. Kacey and Sarah met with Logan Johnson of Maine TREE, AMC, Rural Aspirations and discussed many potential programs to partner on. We are all working together to put together a green jobs fair in May. Sarah went to the SeDoMoCha school board meeting and we are now presenting at the February meeting. We will share information on what projects we are working on in the schools as well as an overall introduction about our District. Sarah did an interview and article with WABI on the work with TNC. Sarah got the Law Farm signs up. Maine Ag in the Classroom's program Read ME Ag is something new we will be offering as part of our educational youth services.

**Board Development** - Sam went to the Law Farm with Bev and shared that things look really nice and noticed people are using the trails. Jensen met with Ron Lemin and looked at the knotweed at Bailey Hill. Ron will come to the next Community Forestry meeting to discuss his treatment proposal. Jensen and Kent plan to talk to Aa ron from Friends of Baxter State Park about fundraising the first week in February and Sarah would like to attend as well.

**Upcoming Events/Dates** - Community Forestry meeting will be February 7th from 4-6PM and that Logan will come and talk about the FERN network and the plots. Board meeting on February 9th. Snowshoe on the 10th. Pollinators and the Forests on February 16th. Fruit Tree Pre Sale going live for 2 weeks in February. LWG meeting March 7th. Sarah wanted to get feedback from the Board on pricing for apple trees as our costs have gone up. Many suggestions were made and Sarah will do follow-up with other Conservation Districts.

Jensen adjourned the meeting at 5:23PM.

### **PCSWCD Meeting Attendance Record**

2023 Attendance	1/12	2/9	3/9	4/13	5/119	6/8	7/13	9/14	10/12	11/9	12/14
Supervisors											
Jensen Bissell, chair	X										
Mike Pounch											
Steve Tatko	х										
Jim Ferrante											

## PCSWCD Meeting Attendance Record

2023 Attendance	1/12	2/9	3/9	4/13	5/119	6/8	7/13	9/14	10/12	11/9	12/14
Associate Supervisors											
Sam Brown	х										
Donna Coffin											
Toby Hall	X										
Kim Merrit	X										
Kent Black	X										
Staff											
Sarah Robinson Ex Dir	х										
Seth Jones NRCS DS	х										
Kacey Weber	Х										
Marc Warren	х										