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

February 9, 2023 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson, Seth Jones, Kacey Weber

Supervisors: Jensen Bissell, Jim Ferrante

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

Guest Speakers: Dawna Blackstone, Korah Soll

The Meeting was conducted via Teams.

Establish a Quorum: Chair Jensen Bissell opened the meeting at 4:0 5 pm. Quorum was established after voting Toby in at 4:23 pm.

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

Finance Report - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Notes about the error in admin, should be sorted out by next month. The goal is to have a budget that is easier to understand.

District Conservationist Report - Local Working Group. 2-3 question survey to send out to participants attending LWG. What it's been in the past, where it will go, what we would like the meeting to look like. 1st meeting gathered info on what are folks seeing, 2nd sets priorities and explains funding pool criteria, 3rd organizes into a form that can be sent to the state office. Add structure to the meetings, so they are worth producers' time. Inflation Reduction Act - announcement next week on what impact that will have on NRCS. Good chancefor more money to be implemented this year and for the next 5 years. Better organization between NRCS and FSA - meeting planned for next week. NRCS - Cooperative Agreement - will follow up with Brittany and see where it's at.

Presentations - Dawna Black stone and Korah Soll of Rural Aspirations Project - Responsive professional development. Support rural schools in the action of professional development. Work all over the state. Work to help support and build curriculums. Pathways to graduations (CTEs, aternative programs) connected to legacy industries in Maine. Collaborative programs - bringing schools together and creating a common curriculum - Skippers and Maine Forest Collaborative. Challenge to Design Process - reach out to community members. Participating in networks.

New Business -

Personnel Policy Updates - Motion was made and seconded to accept the new payroll pay period change and allowing employees to get vacation and sick time upon hire. Comments made about discussing this section of the pe rounnel policy further during the Strategic Planning meeting on March 23rd.

Knotweed Management Contract - Ron Lemin - \$500 to complete the knotweed removal over the next 2 years. Sarah would like to look into the MFS invasive plant funding before committing. Approval that the quote from Ron was reasonable. Motion was made and seconded to accept entering into a 2-year contract with Ron Lemin for controlling knotweed on the Bailey Hill lot.

Executive Director Report: Logan Johnson - Maine Tree & FERN network. Include the District to host a FERN plot, purchase FERN data collection kits. Good demonstration potential. Hoping to change the dashboard in April. Annual Appeal is being updated on the website, being added to the Annual Report and will be sent out separately at a later date. Tree Sale Pre Sale launched Monday February 13th. TNC - Mark has been training, got his lincpass, and is doing great. Trout in the Classroom is underway. Met with PVAEC ED and made an agreement to share advertising. SeDoMoCha school board presentation went very well. Toured Pleasant River Lumber. Friends of Baxter State Park visit was very successful and helpful, talked about fundraising strategies. Jotforms has been a game changer, added in a lot of efficiency. Tree & Plant Sale - adding Marr Pond Farm veggies, offering less from Checkerberry Farm as they expressed needing to reduce capacity. Motion was made and seconded to donate \$200 to Donna's retirement party. Strategic Planning Meeting 9AM-1PM, March 23rd, at Central Hall Commons.

Board Development - Donna - starting seedlings program today. March 16th - what weed is that? Animals in the Garden - April 10th at TFL. Garden series, state -wide, Tuesdays at 6PM. Cold weather tips for livesto cks put out and shared quite a bit. Toby - Grange meeting, sharing Cider Pressing, back and forth.

Upcoming Events/Dates - Snowshoe with a Forester 2/10, Pollinators & the Forest 2/16, Fruit Tree Pre Sale 2/13, Trout Sale March 1, Local Working Group 3/7, Tree & Plant Sale March 13-April 28th, ED Review and March Board meeting, 3/9, Strategic Planning 3/24.

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	X									
Mike Pounch											
Steve Tatko	х										
Jim Ferrante		X									
Kent Black	X										
Associate Supervisors											
Sam Brown	X	X									
Donna Coffin		X									
Toby Hall	x	X									
Kim Merrit	X	X									

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Staff											
Sarah Robinson Ex Dir	х	X									
Seth Jones NRCS DS	х	X									
Kacey Weber	X	X									
Marc Warren	x										