

**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 4:05 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 chance for 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 Blackstone 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, alternative 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 personnel 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.

