

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

April 13 , 2023 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson, Kacey Weber

Supervisors: Jensen Bissell, Jim Ferrante, Kent Black

Assoc. Supervisors: Donna Coffin

The Meeting was conducted via Teams.

Establish a Quorum: Chair Jensen Bissell opened the meeting at 4:02 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.

Finance Report - A motion was made and seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented. Sarah reported that there is not a loss in the Maine Community Foundation account, that it was an admin allocation issue, which will be corrected next month. NRCS will always show a loss because of our 25% match and because payments are a few months behind. TNC is showing a loss because of admin allocation. Sarah noted that the losses will go down next month as money gets moved to appropriate places. Next month we will see something new - restricted cash. This will make it clear what we have for unrestricted cash and what's on hand.

District Conservationist Report - Working through obligation of contracts and it's going well. We are already making appointments for 2024 applications. Never worked with blueberries in the past, but we have some interest right now. Going to try to do some work with Christmas tree growers as new opportunities have emerged. New practice using wood chips and mulching to help with erosion control on newly planted trees. Working with smaller growers on things like row covers, low tunnels and high tunnels. Seth thinks there is potential for biochar and mulch for larger acres and crops like potatoes and corn. Potentially good for the area. Send folks to us for planning years down the road.

New Business - Law Farm Open Space Meeting to Schedule: Jensen will follow up with the group to schedule this meeting in the coming weeks. **Seth Ostrosky** - vote to pay him to do some work on the Law Farm. The budget will come from SEP funds. Work would include mowing, garden upkeep, mulching, light chainsaw work. Willing to work with Colton. A motion was made to authorize Sarah to move forward with contracting with Seth. Seconded. Unanimous.

Executive Director Report - Weyerhouser grant - typically \$4-5,000. Pitching to them to fund our Junior Rep position, developing into a land management position. College credits. State funding - not passed, but supplemental budget still to be considered. Sarah sent a letter to all Board members for language. Board members make those calls. Donation from Jean Emery to support TWE. Appeal email is going out next month. Fundraising committee - met twice. TNC will help us with writing the next grant and it will be a "soft exit." Sarah talked with Bill Bayruther and he will start to work with him in September. At that time we will have a clear picture of what we need. Trout in the Classroom might be moved to May 25th - TBA. Mark to be at Stream Smart and the Trout Release. Law Farm map - waiting for changes from Molly. Sarah likes the map the way it

