

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

April 13 , 2023 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson

Supervisors: Jensen Bissell, Jim Ferrante, Kent Black, [Mike Pouch](#), Steve Tatko

Assoc. Supervisors: Donna Coffin, Toby Hall, Kim Merritt, Sam Brown, Molly London

Guests: Elisa Schine

The Meeting was conducted via Teams.

Establish a Quorum: Chair Jensen Bissell opened the meeting at 4:00 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 - April included and May included and presented. MCF and Law Farm showing loss, but only because they have had expenses that have been paid from grants. TNC shows loss because of an allocation error. Sheila and Sheryl met to fix this error. Sarah to keep the Board posted. Motion and second to approve the finance reports for May as presented. Unanimous to approve.

District Conservationist Report - Working on last obligations for the year, so that Carl and Seth can work on 2024 planning. Very optimistic about the timing of everything this year. Staff was trained on stream crossing work to address crossings not relating to aquatic organism passage projects, but have to do with water quality issues. Gearing up for field visits. Have new clients coming in and new practices happening with Christmas trees and blueberries. There is a challenge getting forestry work completed - not many markets for forest products and not many crews that will do small-scale forestry. Carl and Seth are trying to play around with the programs to help get forestry work done despite the challenges.

New Business - Adam Coover approached PCSWCD with a land swap and sale proposal. He proposed a swap of 017 and 018 for 20 & 21. The land has been cut that Adam wants to swap. Williamsburg deed sweep is needed and the Board needs to do extensive digging to find out if we can legally swap land. Language to Adam would be that we would like to keep things the same and need to do some deep research of the legality of swapping land.. Board decided to let Adam know that we will consider his services when it is time for us to harvest. Adam also expressed an interest in closing down his ATV trail. Steve suggested having him reach out to IF&W's Landowner Outreach. Board agreed that we should communicate to Adam that we would like things to stay the same and continue the positive relationship with the clubs. **Moosehead**

Chamber of Commerce - Proposing purchasing a membership. Jensen proposed we purchase a membership for a year and evaluate. Board agreed. **Education Coordinator**

1-yr Review - 5% wage increase vote. Motion and second to approve. Unanimous approval. **NRCS Easements** - Soil & Water Conservation Districts not eligible for NRCS easements. **Forest Society of Maine Easements** - Medibemp's language in easement agreement that was interesting and welcoming to Wabanaki neighbors. **Williamsburg**

Forest Management Plan - Maine Community Foundation grant has concluded and it

turns out we have some flexibility with when and how projects being paid for with grant funding can be completed. Knowing this, we should extend our timeline to the end of Elisa's timeline and give her the room to complete the work effectively. What's left for Elisa to do is compile data and organize numbers, figuring out the results of the inventory. Summer work will be matching the inventory work to the regions of the forest. The Fall work will be digging into silvicultural recommendations and assessing habitat, also writing the plan. Professors working on this with Elisa are Jessica Leahy, Amber Roth and Nicole Rogers. Mike offered support as well.

Executive Director Report - Seth Ostrosky has signed the MOU and submitted his first invoice. Finances - Cheryl and Sarah working to clear up and get used to the accounting. TNC Interim Reporting due June 15th. Fundraising - Lots of support links on website, in emails and also in events - Sarah encouraged the Board to share links to folks looking to donate. Darling's Ice Cream Truck coming June 27th, 1-3PM and they will be donating all proceeds to us. Meeting scheduled for June 12th for the Fundraising Committee. Approval for Clear Day Thunder: Rescuing the American Chestnut movie screening at the Center Theater. Should be a fun fundraising event and will take place on September 23rd at 4PM. The signs for the Law Farm are done and looking great. MCF grant signs should be coming the week of June 12th. Those will be installed on June 13th at the Land Management meeting. Law Farm workday canceled and projects will be tackled as they come up. SeDoMoCha and Boy Scouts finished about ½ the hazelnuts at the Law Farm, so Sarah will go back out to assess what is left and needs to be done. Sarah will make a list of jobs and share with Board. Sarah and Carolyn Ziegler went to Brownville Snowmobile luncheon. Sarah and Kent went to the Outdoor Expo and had some conversations with Representative Perkins and Paul Davis. Sarah had a meeting with Jenny Ward. Green Jobs Fair was amazing and the Trout in the Classroom event was really fun. Lots of media coverage. Two sponsors secured for 2024 for Green Jobs Fair. Tree & Plant Sale was great - thanks to Kim and Chuck. Veggie seedlings are a go for next year.

Board Development - Board Evaluation - Last 3-4 years working on getting better governance. Last year, did Board self-evaluation, and this year Sam will distribute another one to fill out. The two will be compared to evaluate improvement. The goal would be to do it before the July Board meeting. **Supervisor Handbook** - in inbox to review. **Strategic Plan** - Sue is still trying to get to it and Sarah will suggest she send it to us and have us finish it, so that it can be wrapped up. **Election information** - Mike has decided to step down to an Associate due to capacity issues. Looking to find an associate who wants to step up into the Supervisor role.

Upcoming Events/Dates - June 27th, Darlings Ice Cream Truck 1-3PM, Land Management Meeting 4-6PM June 13th. June 14th Organic Orchard Care workshop - Sam and Kent to attend. Atlantic Salmon Talk June 14th at 6PM. June 27th 6PM Mayo Dam Project in Dover-Foxcroft. TNC requesting Board support. Gravel Roads June 22. June 25th High Tunnel & Irrigation.

Meeting ended at 5:45pm

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
<i>Supervisors</i>											
Jensen Bissell, chair	x	X	X	X	NA	X					
Mike Pouch					NA	X					
Steve Tatko	x				NA	X					
Jim Ferrante		X	X	X	NA	X					
Kent Black	x		X	X	NA	X					
<i>Associate Supervisors</i>											
Sam Brown	x	X	X		NA	X					
Donna Coffin		X	X	X	NA	X					
Toby Hall	x	X			NA	X					
Kim Merrit	x	X	X		NA	X					
Molly London					NA	X					
<i>Staff</i>											
Sarah Robinson Ex Dir	x	X	X	X	NA	X					
Seth Jones NRCS DS	x	X		X	NA	X					
Kacey Weber	x	X	X	X	NA						
Marc Warren	x				NA						