

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

September 14, 2023 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson, Kacey Weber, Seth Jones

Supervisors: Jensen Bissell, Jim Ferrante, Kent Black

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

Guests: Scott Speck, FSA

The Meeting was conducted via Microsoft 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 - Cheryl and Sarah working on fixing errors in the MCF account. Loss in properties account. Sarah would like to move money from the Law Farm account to cover costs. Jensen suggested we also use these funds to cover costs to pay Ron Lemin. Motion and second to approve the finance reports as presented and to move funds from Law Farm account to cover property expenses and rename Law Farm account to Land Management account. Unanimous to approve.

District Conservationist Report - Scott Speck, FSA, attended as a guest. He provided an overview of what FSA does. He also went over current programs, specifically crop insurance, loans, reactionary programs and more. Scott also let the Board know there are two temporary positions now filled by Madison Thew and Omie Dover, both who partially cover Piscataquis.

New Business - Strategic Plan - Board reviewed draft. Suggestions included frequent review, color coding system for what's working, what's not. On the calendar for the March Board meeting to review and update as needed. **Personnel Policy** - Motion and second to approve the personnel policy as presented. **Grant Writer** - cost to budget for Bill Bayruther is \$12,000. Bill can provide potential funding, and working with him will be a learning opportunity for both Kacey and Sarah. We would need to commit to a 12-month contract. Funding would come from liquid cash/operating account. Motion and second to spend up to \$12,000, expended on a monthly basis, to hire Bill Bayruther. Unanimous to approve. **Vice Chair** - Think about and approach the Board with interest. Will discuss further at the October Board meeting.

Executive Director Report - Onion Foundation grant for \$25,000 was received. Sarah submitted a Maine Community Foundation grant to support land management work. Fundraising committee is going well, working on an appeal plan for Thanksgiving timing, and a fundraising plan is being prepared. Clear Day Thunder raffle and screening September 23rd. Eric Ogden photos scheduled for early December. Met with TNC, private award will hopefully be continuing. Kent and Jensen have knocked down the knotweed and Ron has sprayed. Ron will come next year to do a touch-up. Toby mowed the upper parking lot area, beyond the gate was too wet. Toby, Kent and Molly fixed the privy and it was much appreciated. Jensen re-blazed North Loop to blue. Chestnut tubes were cut

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 |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-----|------|-------|-----|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Sarah Robinson Ex Dir | x | X | X | X | NA | X | X | X | | | |
| Seth Jones NRCS DS | x | X | | X | NA | X | X | X | | | |
| Kacey Weber | x | X | X | X | NA | | X | X | | | |
| Marc Warren | x | | | | NA | | | | | | |