

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

February 8, 2024 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Sarah Robinson, Kacey Weber

Supervisors: Jensen Bissell, Jim Ferrante, Carolyn Ziegra, Kent Black, Molly London

Assoc. Supervisors: Sam Brown, Mike Pouch

Guests: Caley Rentz, Seth Jones

The Meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams.

Establish a Quorum: Chair Jensen Bissell opened the meeting at 4:12 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 - New budget was entered into Quickbooks for the new year. Everything is on track and looking great. Updated all savings account names. Sarah is still working extensively with Cheryl as they continue to smooth our accounting out. Motion and second to approve the finance report. Unanimous to approve. No comments.

NRCS Update - NRCS team is obligating contracts this week for Forest Management Plans. The funding for NRCS programs did go up this year state-wide. Piscataquis had \$3.5 million in requests in EQIP. We had an increase in Ag Waste projects and an increase in irrigation projects. The Unfunded Cooperative Agreement has come out and all staff members have reviewed and did not have any concerns. Memorandum of Agreement is coming around now for Districts to sign and agree to continue to work cooperatively with NRCS. Construction and painting in the office starting on Monday February 12th. The construction will create a defined public space in the office.

New Business - We need to discuss and vote on purchasing a generator for use at PCSWCD public lands. Board members recommended at least 2,000 watts - Honda, Yamaha, pays to have a model with a good inverter. Board discussed power at the classroom, solar and all those options were cost prohibitive. Going to use land management funds to purchase it. Motion and second to approve purchase. Unanimous approval. End of year appeal funds got rolled into the operating budget. We need to have a plan for year end funds before the end of this year. Community Tree Steward update - interviewed 1 applicant. We have received 2 additional applications this week. 1 offer was made, but it was declined. Sarah provided feedback back to the state. We are going to wait to see what develops over the next few weeks. There was a suggestion that we keep an open mind.

Executive Director Report - Kacey has been very busy with work with schools. Sarah reviewed the Tree Stewards work. Sarah has been working with Bill and will be applying for an RTP grant that will connect Williamsburg to the state-owned rail trail for biking and increase use to the property. Pre-sale tree sale has begun and orders are rolling in. The Tree & Plant sale will be the biggest one we have ever had! We need help to get bog bridging out to the Law Farm - stay tuned if we get snow. Boy scouts almost done with the benches - will get those out to Williamsburg soon. Dam meeting recap - steering committee has made a recommendation to remove the dam. There will be a town vote to

