

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

January 16 2025 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Kacey Weber, Carl Bickford, NRCS

Supervisors: Jensen Bissell, Kent Black, Carolyn Ziegra

Assoc. Supervisors: Sam Brown, Arthur Wilkins, Alani Worden, Toby Hall

Guests:

The Meeting was conducted at the USDA Service Center. Alani Worden joined via Microsoft Teams.

Establish a Quorum: Chair Jensen Bissell opened the meeting at 4:04pm.

Consent Agenda - Motion and second to approve the consent agenda and December dashboard. Unanimous to approve. This includes the previous minutes, grant reports, December dashboard and staff reports.

Finance Report - Official surplus was \$36,834 is going to be moved to the Board Designated Funds account, some will be invested. Kacey investigated some local banks for CD accounts with returns of around 4%. She would like to meet with a wealth advisor at Bangor Savings Bank for other available options before making any decisions.

See attached dashboard.

NRCS Update - Working through EQIP applications, IRA applications completed.

Education Coordinator / Executive Director Report Highlights -

Kacey reported, *reports attached.*

Kacey is working hard in January, event planning is in progress. Fruit Tree sale will launch on Jan 30th. Work is planned for the yearly event calendar. Education coordinator hiring process completed; interviewed 5 candidates but ultimately offered the position to Dustin Small. He has historically been lead presenter on foraging and mushroom inoculation workshops and enthusiastically accepted the position. Training planning in progress for Dustin's school workshops. Maine TREE is helping with EC training, including the Maine Teacher's Tour. AMC may also combine training activities. Dustin will likely shadow Kacey at events over the next few months. Plan is to have EC work solo at schools by September 2025. Recreational Trails Grant received to connect AMC bike trails and the Williamsburg Forest. The grant has a 1 year timeline. Kacey has in hand a signed access easement from landowners, and conversations with London's in progress for actual trail construction. Yamaha matching grant, additional requirements include media and videos which Kacey is working on. The trail will likely connect the outdoor classroom via the railroad, but exact engineering and location is tbd. Conversation about the trains signalling around the crossing was discussed. The exact location of the trail end will be discussed moving forward. Jensen planning some land base interpretation improvements.

Southern Aroostook SWCD and Piscataquis working together with the new Americorps member, Louisa Kaplan, she started on Jan 15.

