

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

October 9, 2025 at 4pm.

Attendance:

Staff: Kacey Weber

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

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

Guests: none

The Meeting was conducted at the Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft.

Establish a Quorum: Chair Jensen Bissell opened the meeting at 4:08pm.

Consent Agenda - Motion and second to approve the consent agenda. Unanimous to approve. This includes the previous minutes, grant reports, September dashboard and staff reports. A motion was made and unanimous to approve.

Finance Report - See *attached dashboards*.

A motion made and unanimous to approve.

NRCS report: n/a

Education Coordinator / Executive Director Report Highlights -

Kacey reported, *reports attached*.

- Government shutdown: TNC sub-award cannot be drawn from during this time
- Items in attached ED report noted with asterisks on hold during gov shutdown
- TNC 5 year agreement on track and signed, can be picked up after end of shutdown
- Oct 6: Molly and Kacey had meeting at Williamsburg Forest as finalists for Maine Tree Farmer of the year for 2026 !!! Reps from Maine Tree Farm were very impressed with the FMP.
 - Good job Molly!!!!
- Outreach and school events going well, Cheyanne putting on at least 1 program per week until January - great job Cheyanne!
- District Events
 - Chainsaw Safety for Women: paid for a presenter, was not included in budget (different from previous years)
 - Rethink event costs and budgeting for future events
 - Main presenter (pro bono) likes support, supporting trainer has higher costs
 - Second photography event this upcoming weekend, \$1,000 coming in!
 - Hirundo Wildlife Refuge Fall Festival Oct 11, Cheyanne attending
 - TCTC Orchard Education Day Oct 15 and 16: apple pressing and CJ Walke from MOFGA for pruning

Board Development: n/a

New Business:

- **2026 Programs and Events**

- Outreach- Year round
- Cooperator of Year Award- Due for Farmer recognition
- Local Working Group - December
- Volunteer of Year Award- Fall 2026

Sales/Service

- Fruit Tree Presale - January
- Tree & Plant Sale - May
- Trout Sale - May

Fundraising:

- Law Farm Photo Event - July & October

FREE District Events:

- Bird Walk at the Law Farm - May
- Cider Pressing - September
- Maine TREE Farm Forum - Time of Year TBD
- 101 Series with Thompson Free Library - Time of Year and Topic TBD
- Green Jobs Fair - October
- Invasive Plant Management - August

FEE

- Women's Chainsaw Safety Course Williamsburg Forest- Sept/Oct
- Mushroom log inoculation at Two Knights Brewing locations - April
 - 2025 location at Two Knights
 - Option to have in Sangerville and a second in Milo (Rail Yard)
 - Two sessions per day at each location
 - Two logs per person, 36 inches each for cost of entry
 - Need to buy at least 1 more drill bit
- Apple Pruning Workshop w/ CJ Walke - March
- Lilac/Shrub Pruning w/ Kate Garland UMaine Cooperative Extension - June
- Buffer Plant Workshop w/ Ivonne Vazquez - May or October
- Basic and Advanced Erosion Control Course John Maclaine - February
- Wilderness First Aid - Summer 2026 (SOLO-PEEC), collab with Maine Audubon, maybe AMC - two day event
 - Jensen to look into alternatives to SOLO - past trainers used at Baxter

New ideas:

- Fly Fishing Fest collab with AMC, April/May, or at the Fly Fishing Film Fest (March)
 - Maine Audubon released Forestry for the Birds
 - Location at Rail Yard Brewing
- Hazelnut Harvest
- Hazelnut root pruning
- Forestry & Wildlife event at Williamsburg Forest (Jim, Joe, Kelly)
 - Forestry for the fish?
 - Assisted migration?
 - Ash?
- Forestry workshop: ID and tag female ash trees at Williamsburg - is this an event or push internally by the District to maintain FMP goals
- Winter events: snowshoe event

VOTE: Approve list as modified. A motion was made and unanimous to approve.

- **Barnard Forest Ribbon Cutting (Carolyn)**

No town managers showed, sadly.

- ~ 29,000 acres just north of Sebec Lake
- Goal of restoring public access, previous owners shut down all public access, preventing subdivision and development
- Identified Atlantic salmon habitat
- No goal of timber harvesting
- 20+ years ago liquidation timber harvest (CLEARCUT)
 - Very uniform forest structure now
- AMC currently opening 40 miles of roads, in progress for more
 - New bridges
- Rail line is northern boundary, rail line has no functional crossing
 - No crossing on roads open yet
 - Goal for 2026 to have railroad crossing open to fully open road to join parcels
- Goal is to remain outside of KI gate system - FREE!!!
- Discussion of AMC events to bring people back on to property
- Open up new parking lots closer to Brownville
- 1700 acres being returned to Penobscot nation (likely to go through in January)

- Opens up potential access to Bailey Hill district property?
- New other exciting AMC fundraising push for Whitecap Property 29,000 acres to the north, higher up in Pleasant River watershed (very cool)

- **Board Election Updates**

- Molly London's supervisor term up in December 2025
 - Stepping down to Associate Supervisor after term end
- Arthur is running for election to fill her Supervisor seat
 - Needs to get 25 signatures ASAP (end of next week)
- Election is at November board meeting

- **Government Shutdown Updates**

- -see attached packet for full shutdown contingency plan
- District is both Partner (housed in NRCS office) and Contractor (TNC contracts)
- Stream Restoration Project manager position funding cannot be drawn from during shutdown period
 - District will continue to pay health care stipend for October (will be drawn from Admin budget)
 - Consider allocating budget for backpay during furlough time, revisit at end of shutdown or November board meeting and calculate time lost

VOTE: A motion was made to cover existing Stream Restoration Manager healthcare stipend each month until the end of December. Unanimous to approve.

ACTION: Kacey to draft email to Caitlin describing upcoming Board meeting discussion on backpay, sharing approved vote to cover health insurance until at least end of 2025, will share to some Board members for language review

- Upcoming TNC subaward: necessary to add language into pending TNC 5-year contract to prevent issues from recurring again
 - Kacey meeting with Matt Walker from NRCS to talk agreement after shutdown ends
- Impossible for ED to completely extract necessary files from the NRCS office on short notice!
- Kacey's hardware options without office:
 - No printer, District needs to find sources for printing needs until office is reopened
 - Example: 50 copies of a map cost \$41.15 recently
 - Option to print at library for cheaper (\$0.25 per copy, but limited volume)
 - New laptop
 - Usually Kacey uses NRCS machines in office
 - Backup laptop currently in use is from 2013
 - Adobe subscription is \$250 per year, or \$38 per month

VOTE: a motion was made and seconded to spend up to \$750 for a new laptop and non-profit package for Adobe. Will be charged to the Admin fund. Unanimous to approve.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm

Executive Session: n/a

Upcoming events:

- Oct 11th: Law Farm Photo Session, Sienna Renee Photography 11AM-4:30PM
- Nov 13th: District Election
- Dec 2nd: Local Working Group Meeting

PCSWCD Meeting Attendance Record

2025 Attendance	1/16	2/13	3/13	4/10	5/8	6/12	7/10	8	9/11	10/9	11	12
<i>Supervisors</i>								n/a				
Jensen Bissell, chair	X	X	x	x	x	X	x		x	x		
Jim Ferrante, vice chair		X	x	x		X	x		x	x		
Kent Black	X	X	x	x	x	X	x		x	x		
Molly London				x		X	x		x			

PCSWCD Meeting Attendance Record

2025 Attendance	1/16	2/13	3/13	4/10	5/8	6/12	7/10	8	9/11	10/9	11	12
Carolyn Ziegra	X	X			x	X			x	x		
<i>Associate Supervisors</i>												
Steve Tatko												
Mike Pouch			x	x		X						
Sam Brown	X	X	x	x	x	X	x		x	x		
Toby Hall	X		x	x	x	X	x		x	x		
Alani Worden	X	X	x	x	x	X	x		x	x		
Arthur Wilkins	X	X	x	x	x	X	x		x	x		
<i>Staff</i>												
Kacey Weber, ED	X	X	x	x	x	X	x		x	x		
NRCS DS	X		x	x	x		x		x			
Cheyenne, EC					Hired		x					
Caitlin Maguire												
Dustin Small, EC	(hired)				Resigned							