

POLK SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 8 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

_____ Draft
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Recording and attachments available on request

CALL BOARD MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Wilson @6:00PM. Introductions were then made.

<u>DIRECTORS:</u>	<u>STAFF:</u>	<u>GUESTS:</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mike Wilson, Chair	Kevin Porter	Susan Spicer Pond	
Chad Woods, Vice Chair	Hayley Iverson	Maggie Payton	
Mike Wilson, Secretary	Morgan Neil		
John (Jock) Dalton, Treasurer	Marc Bell-Zoom		
Eden Olsen	Evelyn Conrad-Zoom		
Lindsay McClary			
Donna Champeau			
Pryor Garnett-Zoom			

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

REVISION OF AGENDA

No additions or revisions were made to the agenda.

STAFF REPORTS

Morgan Neil presented her staff report and reviewed the projects she has been working on.

Marc Bell presented his staff report and reviewed his projects he has been working on. He stated that he has begun receiving interest from the CREP postcards that were mailed out.

Kevin Porter presented his staff report and reviewed the projects he has been working on. He stated that he has discovered that there are some billings that haven't been completed in a while that need to be sent out to collect money for the District.

TREASURERS REPORT

Jock Dalton presented the Treasurers Report. He noted that the staff has had some transitions and that there is some missing information and are not fully accurate, however, they don't appear to be out of order. Chad Woods noted that he doesn't believe anything is out of order in the report but plans to get it sorted while working on the budget. Jock Dalton noted that the Board budgets for grants that they might get, so that they are able to use those funds for projects if they are received. Mike Wilson made a Motion to approve the Treasurers Report. Chad Woods Seconded. Jock Dalton stated that he is not claiming that the report is accurate, just that he has presented it. He stated that the approval is for the presentation of the report and not the accuracy of it. Lindsay McClary stated that it sounds like the staff is working to correct the missing information. There was discussion about what the Board would like to see in future reports. Motion Passed Unanimously.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 2022 Minutes: Kevin Porter noted that there were a couple of corrections that need to be made. Jock Dalton made a Motion to approve the November 2022 Board Meeting Minutes with the corrects noted. Chad Woods Seconded. There was discussion regarding whether new Board Members would abstain from voting. It was determined that they do not need to abstain. Motion Passed Unanimously.

February 2023 Minutes: Lindsay McClary made a Motion to approve the February 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Eden Olsen Seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee: Donna Champeau noted that the Committee met earlier this week. She noted that they were discussing the Board Policy Manual and should have a report soon. She noted that there will be another meeting this month. She stated that there was also discussion regarding the District Manager evaluation review process.

Policy Committee: Pryor Garnett reviewed the draft Land Acknowledgment Statement that the Committee had been working on. Pryor Garnett reviewed the process the committee took to draft this Land Acknowledgment Statement. Pryor Garnett stated that he recommends that the Board use this language and create a land agreement. There was discussion regarding necessary changes that need to be made before the Board may approve the Land Acknowledgment Statement. Lindsay McClary made a Motion to approve the Land Acknowledgment Statement. Chad Woods Seconded. Lindsay McClary noted that it would be dangerous for the Board to interpret where the land came from. There was discussion regarding the language presented in the agreement surrounding the tribes present in Polk County. Pryor Garnett agreed and will change the language. Pryor Garnett stated that he is not comfortable approving the statement with the concerns that were pointed out. Lindsay McClary withdrew the Motion. Jock Dalton Seconded. Mike Wilson stated that he knows that this was brought before the Board in good faith and doesn't want to be critical but wants to make sure that it is handled correctly.

Properties Committee:

Lindsay McClary reviewed the topics discussed in the Committee meeting. She noted that there were hunting and trespassing issues at Smithfield and Cornerstone that appear to have been resolved. Lindsay stated that she believes that a gate at Cornerstone was approved in the past and would like the Board to go ahead with that. There was discussion regarding the placement of the gate.

NEW BUSINESS

Claudia Chinook: Kevin Porter reviewed the history of Claudia with Polk SWCD. He noted that the District's use of Claudia has been very minimal and hasn't been benefiting the District. Kevin noted that the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council has used Claudia often and they would like to take possession of her. Susan Spicer Pond reviewed Claudia's history with Upper Nehalem Watershed Council beginning in 2011. She stated that when they learned that the District wouldn't be renting Claudia out anymore due to repairs, they began discussing taking possession of her. They have had many volunteers offer to help with repairing and upgrading her. She reviewed the care Claudia would receive and educational possibilities. She noted that the Watershed does not have funds to adopt Claudia, however, they have the ability to restore her and bring her back to life. Jock Dalton made a Motion to rehome Claudia to Upper Nehalem Watershed Council and not charge anything. Lindsay McClary Seconded. Chad Woods stated that he would like to have in the agreement that should Upper Nehalem Watershed Council decide to get rid of Claudia in the future, that Polk SWCD would have first right of refusal and the ability to use Claudia in the future. Susan Spicer Pond agreed. Chad stated that he was surprised to hear that they had artisans. Jock Amended his Motion to include the stipulation of first right of refusal. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Budget Calendar: Mike Wilson stated that there needs to be a change to the previously approved Budget Calendar. Kevin Porter noted that the original budget calendar had approval of the annual work plan for this Board meeting, however, it will need to be pushed until next month to allow for further discussion of the work plan. Pryor made a Motion to approve the amended budget calendar as presented. Lindsay McClary Seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Legislative Update: Donna Champeau reviewed upcoming legislation that the Board should be paying attention to as they impact the District. There was discussion about the bills being presented and the legislative process being taken and when conservation districts should testify. Donna Champeau noted that she would like to see the district get more involved with the legislation. Pryor Garnett noted that testimony from the District could be helpful to keep these bills moving forward. Wilson stated that he would like to do at least quarterly legislation updates. Kevin Porter thanked Marc Bell for his work on the Wildlife Habitat Property Tax Deferral. Chad Woods stated that Polk County has been at the top of participation in this program. Chad noted that the County Assessor tried to remove the wildlife habitat exemption and the Board fought to keep that. Marc Bell thanked the Board for the acknowledgment of his work on this project.

Annual Work Plan: Mike Wilson reviewed the importance of the Annual Work Plan and the process historically taken for it. Morgan Neil reviewed changes that she had made to the work plan today. She noted that it is mostly a blank slate. Kevin Porter stated that he has never done a work plan before and is looking for guidance from the Board. There was discussion regarding potential items in the work plan. Mike Wilson reviewed the drafted work plan. Mike Wilson stated that this is a draft and is for the Board to review and give staff input on what they would like to see in the work plan. Chad Woods stated that he would like to see the District mission added to the work plan. Chad Woods stated that if there is a possibility of projects, they need to be put on the work plan so that the work could be done on them if the grant is approved. He encouraged the other board members to look for opportunities for projects. Lindsay McClary stated that she likes the diversity of projects listed. Eden Olsen questioned if the Board would be using a different lay out for the work plan. Kevin Porter stated that there isn't a specific format that needs to be followed and a different layout may be used in the future. Chad Woods encouraged the board members to contact Kevin Porter with recommendations. There was discussion regarding possible changes to the work plan to help track staff hours. There was discussion with staff as to what they would like to see in the work plan or how they should allocate hours. Marc Bell stated that he would like to see a new format and take the pieces that are working and get rid of the pieces that aren't. Mike Wilson stated that the work plan needs to be approved at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:55pm by Wilson

Respectfully submitted,

Hayley Iverson

Administrative Assistant