

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

OLD BUSINESS

- **OACD dues:** Jerry Nicolescu did not make it to the meeting will discuss it later.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:** Pat Welle came to request funding in the amount of \$19,240.00 to pay for Jenni Dykstra to write grants for projects and develop projects for Scappoose Creek, for Pat and Amber's time, for maintenance on their greenhouse including time for plan development, and admin funds. Dart Creek has some design work already completed. Bill stated partnerships are two way streets and this seems very one sided. KC asked why they did not know they did not have funding for this sooner, and that coming to the district after the budget has been approved and adopted is a little late. He also asked when the last audit was completed. It is unknown. Kari stated that she had looked back 12 years and did not see where an audit had happened. KC made a motion to table this for now, and recommended the SBWC come back when they can show that they have a plan for their books to be audited and that they have a budget in place to understand their needs 3-4 months ahead of time.
- **FAAP and SOW for WTS Grant:** The WTS scope of work and Focus Area Action Plan for 2015-2016 was passed out. Nathan discussed the highlights of the plans and requested the board approved them so the 2015-2017 grant can be submitted for approval. **Motion to Approve:** VanNatta/Freytag passed by unanimous vote
- **ODA – Strategic Implementation Area:** Talked about Ag water-quality and other programs, the hemp and pot industry is going to be treated as a crop and will need to meet all the same requirements of other agricultural practices across the state. He mentioned the noxious weed program strategies in the state, and what to prioritize. \$600,000 spent so far in restoration. The North Coast is our area.

The ODA will be conducting six SIAs across the state concerning water quality. Two pilots SIAs were conducted; one with Clackamas and the other with Wasco SWCD's last year. John explained contact procedures and enforcement. Columbia County does not have much Ag, so not a serious concern. ODA is looking at the priority areas for the state and will be lining up some of their SIA's within those areas. Four major areas include the Elk River, Siletz, Willamette Valley, and Nehalem River. There is a core team working on Coastal Coho in three of these areas and ODA would like to be able to come in and show that Ag is not the major contributing factor to water quality issues in the Nehalem. John and Kevin have been working with Kari to determine the best location to have an SIA in Columbia County. ODA requests that the SWCD participate in their outreach meetings and continue to be the local contact for landowners to work with if there are areas found that need improvement. Margaret thanked John for his presentation and appreciated the information that was present highlighting the small number of agriculture in the high priority areas. Randy mentioned that Vernonia is funded to build a new wastewater treatment plant.

- **SWCC:** Jerry Ward is a director for the Tualatin SWCD and the regional representative for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He represents Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, Tualatin, and West Multnomah SWCD's. He passed out an overview of what SWCC is and what its role is in the state. He encouraged the board to let him know about things of interest in Columbia County. He shared that he does get the Columbia SWCD minutes and he reads them and shares highlights with the commission at their regular meetings.
- **SWCD Audit:** Kari presented two auditors that had provided quotes for this year's audit. Dennis Conner, \$6675 and Patrick Carney, \$3890. Kari recommended Dennis Conner. We have been using the same auditor as far back as she could see and it is considered best practice to change auditors from time to time. The cost is a significant increase, but still much less than would be charged if a firm in Portland or Salem were to do it. **Motion to hire Dennis Conner** VanNatta/Pierce
Vote: NO -Freytag YES - VanNatta, Pierce, And Eagle ABSTAIN: Bergman, Ellis did not pass
Motion to hire Dennis Conner: Bergman/VanNatta
Vote: YES – Pierce, Eagle, VanNatta, Bergman ABSTAIN: Freytag, Ellis
Passed
- **Partnership with County Roads and Parks:** The district is working with Dave Hill and Tristan Wood of the roads dept on culvert replacements, discussion has been taking place to work more closely with them on projects on or near county property. We have been assisting with the Oak Ranch project in an advisory role, and have been working with them on multiple culverts on the Clatskanie River. We have also been contacted by Glen Krinklaw with County Parks to help with the completion of the Crown Z trail with a bridge project crossing over the Nehalem linking the CZ trail with the Banks Vernonia trail. This project would include land acquisition, floodplain improvements, interpretive signage, and ultimately the bike and pedestrian bridge. The SWCD is also in discussion with county parks to see if they have the ability to take care of some of our plant establishment work on local projects. This would provide some additional funding to the parks department for staff and possibly equipment. Bill stated the park dept get their funding from grants and user fees, and have a very tight budget. Lona talked about spread of weeds from construction of bridge over Alder Creek on the Crown Z trail, and planting species not from our area. Weed control discussed.
- **Summer Projects:** Tyler gave update on three summer projects: Clatskanie floodplain, Batwater (archeological monitoring is expensive), and Clatskanie crossing #4 (pre bid meeting held).

Tyler also shared information from an ODF meeting: discussed permitting of woody debris to alleviate needing a federal permit. Needs to be related to a logging project. The Carcus Creek project could have been completed without any of the federal permits we attained. A forest practices notification with alternate plan was all that needed to be filed with ODF prior to the wood placement. Passed around photos of logs placed in Carcus Creek. (2 years after placement)

- **RCPP:** Regional Conservation Partnership Program is a program we applied to last year for a streambank project on the Clatskanie River. It was not approved. This year we were not going to apply, but found out we qualify to use the Watershed Authority (PL-566) allowing the SWCD if the project is approved to sign a sponsorship agreement with NRCS allowing us to handle all the contracting, project management and funding of projects eliminating the tax burden on landowners in our area of income that would be typical of other NRCS programs. We will be submitting the pre-proposal on July 8. We will also be submitting an OWEB FIP – building capacity pre-proposal July 1.

REPORTS

CRAIG

Scappoose Drainage Improvement Company is opening RFP's for the drainage study.

BILL

Gave presentation to Clean Columbia County

RANDY

Requested a committee to study cavity nesters, especially flying squirrels, to see if there is a way to improve and maintain their habitat in the county. Lona, Randy, and Darrel Whipple to be on the committee. Bill Appointed committee. Randy will be chair.

DON

Receive 4 applications for the RCPP program for carbon holding on private forestland. NRCS is going to be hiring a soil conservationist for the St Helens office; the date for the posting has not been announced. Finished writing 12 EQIP contracts. There will be a team from the NRCS state office coming out to look at WRP projects in the county.

KARI

Lots of contracting this month as projects are getting closer.

NATHAN

Nathan had many site visits this month, including the Springlake community in Scappoose.

LCRWC

(Report in packet)

Margaret stated that the report is in the packet.

VanNatta moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:50PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Lona Pierce/Kari Olsen-Hollander
Board Secretary/District Manager

Approved 07.15.15