

**Minutes of the
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors
Meeting January 20, 2016**

Directors Present:

Bill Eagle, Chair
Jason Busch, Vice Chair
Kay C. VanNatta, Treasurer
Lona Pierce, Secretary
Randy Bergman, Director
Craig Ellis, Director
Dave Freytag, Director

SWCD Staff:

Kari Olsen-Hollander, DM
Malyssa Legg, OA
Nathan Herr, RC

Watershed Councils:

Margaret Magruder – LCRWC
Lonny Welter – SBWC

Public

Marilyn VanNatta
Claudia Eagle
Craig Allison
Al Pierce (left after Annual Meeting)

CALL TO ORDER OF ANNUAL MEETING: 7:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING

Introductions were made

- **Annual Report:** All attendees were given a copy of the report. We have received lots of phone calls about the Annual Report and the Weed calendar that was also sent out. Lots of positive feedback. Lots of interest in Lona's bird article. **Motion** Freytag/Busch to accept Annual Report. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Audit:** We changed auditors this year. After his visit in early November every week he would tell us it was almost done. Then he would keep requesting more information. Some things we have provide 2, 3 or even 4 times. We should be getting the final copy of the audit next Monday. It was due 12/31/15 but an extension was filed with the Secretary of State through 01/31/16. Once we have the final copy we will provide to the board.

Motion Busch/Pierce to adjourn Annual Meeting. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

ANNUAL MEETING ADJOURNED 7:18 PM

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING: 7:30 PM

Prior Month's Minutes: **Motion** VanNatta/Pierce to approve Minutes from 12-16-15 with the addition of Jason Busch to board members present. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**

Financial Report: **Motion** VanNatta/Ellis to accept financial Report from 11-30-15. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Approved 02.17.16

councils like they should so they leave it up to the IRS. **Motion** VanNatta/Freytag to approve filing of paperwork for LCRWC. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**

- Hiring of Office Assistant & Field Technician/Outreach Coordinator:** Bill noted that per ORS261 the manager can hire/fire staff as needed. Kari mentioned it is good to discuss the options and provide the board with information. Lona brought up that these are new positions though and the board should have input on this. Kari provided the job descriptions to the board. By adding the Office Assistant it would make it so the phones and office are always manned. Kari read through current staff tasks and what areas we need help with. She also provided them with the current projects (41) and 5 to add because of flooding. Does not include day to day tasks, site visits for landowners, and T/A. Pending the approval of the RCPP \$8.8 millions in possible projects in a 5 year span. We will still be doing these projects but in a 10 year span if we do not get the RCPP approved. From that \$8.8 millions we will be getting \$2.6 million in T/A for staffing and monitoring projects. This would help to offset the tax levy for staff salaries. The Office Assistant would be \$11- \$13 per hour based on experience and 30 hours a week. The Field Tech/Outreach position would be \$15 - \$17 per hour and 40 hours per week. Randy wanted to make sure that the ground water study is still moving forward because that is the most important thing right now. Warren Bench and Quincy Hill are focus areas. Kari said it is going into the budget for this upcoming fiscal year. We are still negotiating costs with PSU. They are asking for 22% admin and we want to try to get it down to 10%. We have money in our budget for contracted services not from grants so we can use that towards this study. Land Development Services has mentioned that they might be able to contribute money towards it also. Bill mentioned that we might even be able to get additional money from the cities that are in the areas if we talk to them. We are hoping to get it started this summer. Back to the discussion of new hires, Lona would like to see another Tyler or Nathan position with an expertise in forestry. Bill stated that Malysa is swamped and needs someone to support with paperwork. We aren't just going to hire someone with no experience off the street. Kari mentioned that we get forestry assistance from NRCS, ODF and WMSWCD, Amy at OSU Extension, and Small Woodlands Association. Lona then mentioned maybe an Ecologist. The Estuary Partnership is working on re-hiring that position. They received 39 applications. Kari mentioned that better outreach gets brought up at her annual review every year. Newsletters and other outreach can't happen with the workload and staff we have currently. We would be able to spend more time in the field with landowners, data collecting, surveying, etc. Quality of work and landowner relations would increase. Jason mentioned that it's more cost effective to not have two RCs in the field when you need 2 people for safety. Nathan brought up that it's a struggle between should I do all of this paperwork, that needs to be done, or do I go out and help more landowners, which then makes for more paperwork. Concern about on requiring an Associates Degree for the Field Tech. We can change to Bachelors. **Motion** Freytag/Busch to approve hiring of an Office Assistant. **Approved 6 Pierce Opposed. Motion passed** **Motion** Ellis/Freytag to approve hiring of a Field Technician/Outreach Coordinator. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**
- Yamhill SWCD IGA:** Met with Larry and some of the other staff from Yamhill regarding plants for projects. They will be providing us the 50,000 plants needed for Batwater and Clatskanie Floodplain. The prices are really good and we talked about future projects. Would like to do an IGA that would give them first dibs on bidding on our planting projects. It would simplify the bid process for these projects. They have a good working relationship with some of the big nurseries so we wouldn't have to form those relationships. Kari will work with Larry on drafting up for board approval.
- Forestry in South County:** Tyler attended a meeting last week with WMSCD, TSWCD (Amy Grotta and Dean from NRCS also attended) to discuss forestry that crosses county zones. They want to gather like issues in the 3 counties. Do we know of any pockets of interest?

Email Kari if you think of anything. Lonny mentioned Gypsy moth spraying in the spring. Others mentioned monoculture of species.

- **70th Anniversary Party:** December 23 of this year the District will officially be 70 years old. The UNWC, SBWC, and LCRWC will all be 20 this year. We would like to do a big celebration in October. Is this something the board would be interested in pursuing? We can talk more at next month's meeting.

REPORTS

BOARD

KC attended meetings for Oregon Association of Loggers and Farm Bureau. Discussion about 6 digit ODOT code free until September. Talked about interstate commerce. If you are 18-21 with a CDL you cannot drive a vehicle involved in interstate commerce. Federal Rule.

Randy attended the OACD Board meeting in Salem last week. Lots going on in Burns. Process to find a replacement for Executive Director since Ryan Gordon left at NWOWC is having some issues. A lot of talk about communication. Looking into doing conference calls to get information out. Bill mentioned at least it's an attempt to communicate.

Craig talked about Scappoose Drainage District. They have a \$25,000 electric bill in December due to culvert issues. Need some help with that. Still working on their accreditation with FEMA.

KARI

Carr Slough appraisal underway. Tyler spoke with Emergency Management and they are hoping to hear from FEMA next week about the flooding issues. NRCS engineer teal would personally deem our county an emergency and work with us on EWP. Tyler, Kari and Margaret have been meeting with landowners regarding flooding areas. Don started back part time yesterday. He's doing well.

LCRWC

Report provided to board. Lots of calls and visits regarding flooding. City of Rainier meeting on Friday about Fox Creek. The SWCD will be attending also. Looking at options on Tandy Creek for a flooding solution.

SBWC

Project completed on 3.5 miles of Milton Creek in the Fall is still holding up after the flooding. Has improved the dynamics of the stream. Moving forward with the Duck Lake project through the Estuary Partnership. Looking to submit a grant for culvert on Robinette. One landowner is backing out as they want to use it for a crossing and wants more of a bridge than a fjord.

ROADS DEPT.

Trying to get the state of emergency to include the wind event that occurred after the flooding. 39 damage sites on roads estimated \$4 million in damages. 56 roads closed with wind event. Between cities, PUDs, and the county should be able to get presidential declaration.

MEETING ADJOURNED BY UNANIMOUS DECLARATION 9:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Malysa Legg

Malysa Legg, District Clerk

Approved 02.17.16