



**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**REPORTS****LCRWC**

Margaret provided an update on current EWP/FEMA projects. She stated that the Tallman Culvert is in; the Clatskanie 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Conyer's Street banks have been stabilized; Merrill Creek is finished and OK Creek is completed. Fox Creek is on hold until spring due to ground water intrusion and Clatskanie River stabilization is delayed due to high flows.

Margaret also stated that the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act has passed Congress and is headed to the President's desk for signature. This will provide grant funding for toxic removal from the river. The Estuary Partnership is starting the first, large-scale effort to identify and quantify known locations of marine debris along the lower Columbia River. Margaret asked that if anyone comes across marine debris to take a photo (and note location) and send to the Estuary Partnership or the SWCD to submit into the data base

Margaret was asked if a replacement has been identified yet for the LCRWC. Not yet at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Audit:** A copy of the audit was given to the board at last month's board meeting for review.

**Motion:** VanNatta/Bergman to approve the Audit. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Lona explained that she feels as though the district is only receiving the minimal, required feedback. Kari discussed that we receive the same amount of information as other counties. Lona also asked who else views and handles the District's finances. Kari explained that she and Malysa sit with a bookkeeper and review quarterly. Kari, Malysa and Bill or KC are the ones who handle the checks but Kari stated that they have discussed opening up some staff roles to obtain more responsibility, including handling money.

- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection):** Nathan informed the Board that the Aulbach Landslide project began two weeks ago and that they are currently waiting on eco-blocks. Discussion was held regarding the Aulbach project.
- **LCRWC Coordinator Position:** Kari reassured the Board that the LCRWC would be picking the new Coordinator but that she would like to discuss. KC said that he believes the council could get a half-time person from the District. Kari recommended putting Selene in as a temporary position. Randy stated that Margaret has nearly finished her projects and that KC is almost done with his. Kari explained that there are many potential projects in that area such as Beaver Creek, Stewart Creek, Alder Creek and Keystone Creek. Margaret also mentioned that the Clatskanie River needs to be addressed, which has the potential of taking over homes and would result in a big project.

Kari explained that the District would still be moving forward with these projects but that they work closely with the watershed. Randy believes that there needs to be some changes. Kari said that she wants to make sure the council is still involved, the local grassroots approach makes the partnership with the SWCD and the Council work so well in the community. The council support grant needs to be submitted in March for the next biennium.

Lona asked if the position needs to be publicized. Kari informed that it would be publicized if the council does not already have someone in mind. She asked if the Board is okay with one of the District staff working with the council if the council approves.

Nathan said that the District would be just as involved with the projects whether or not someone from the District is on the council. Discussion was held.

**No quorum due to conflicts of interest.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **New Insurance Rules and Policy:** Handout was given to the Board. Kari reviewed and discussed OWEB's rules/policy. She stated that due to the District working closely with Columbia River Youth Corps and other school age children year round they needed to add abuse/molestation to the policy.
- **Whistleblower Policy:** Handout was given to the Board. Kari reviewed and discussed the new legislation with the board which will go into effect January 1. Discussion was held regarding who staff could go to if needed.
- **SDAO Conference:** Kari informed the Board that the Conference will be held February 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at the Marriot in Portland. Lona mentioned that she is interested and would like to review the schedule. Brief discussion held.
- **ODA Board Training:** The training will be held in Hillsboro on January 11 and in Tillamook on January 12. Brief discussion was held.
- **Working Lands Preservation:** Kari thinks it would be a good idea to have Nelly come out and give a 15-minute presentation on this, and would like to involve the LCRWC who would also like more information. Randy mentioned that Don is meeting with a farmer/landowner at the end of January and thinks Nelly should attend that meeting. It was also mentioned that the Oregon Agriculture and Heritage Program could impede on the standard funding sources the council and district currently use for projects. Brief discussion was held regarding the program. The Board also discussed that OACD is speaking on behalf of SWCD's in-favor of the program and Kari believes the CSWCD board needs to voice their opinion. Kari suggested that the Board look further into the program and have Nelly out before making a decision. Brief discussion held.

**[Bill Eagle arrived, 8:00 PM]**

- **New Cooperators:**
  - Tamera Barth, Deer Island 37 acres
  - Kelly Cox, St. Helens 49 acres
  - Justin Morgan, St. Helens 16 acres
  - Danielle Smith, Warren, 6 acres

**Motion: Eagle/Bergman to approve New Cooperators. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**

- **Fox Creek Contractor:**

A packet was given to the Board which included emails exchanged between the District and the Contractor. Kari gave a brief summary of the project and explained some of the obstacles faced, such as weather and permitting, which resulted in a late start on the project. A sewer line and storm waterline were another unexpected issue. Kari went on to explain that "bumps" were expected and that the District kept in contact with the Contractor, though Change Orders were never received. Adjustments and changes were made, there were delays, and putting the manhole in actually finished the project for this season but the total work scope was not completed per the contract. Kari explained that the District has received many emails from the contracting company with invoices for items/projects that don't match. The invoices were not itemized and all supporting documents they give have conflicting information and are "muddy" when they try to go back to earlier documents. The District has contacted the Contractor's office employee when invoices were not matching up. The employee apologized and responded with a new amount. The District made an estimate based off recent invoices received and believed the

Approved 01.18.17

employee's new amount is still incorrect. NRCS has been working with the District and is willing to help pay the Contractor before the work is completed as long as the information and numbers are correct. Kari and Monica will be having a meeting with the contractor via phone at 10:30 AM tomorrow. She stated that the entire job is not complete but that she would still like to get the contractor paid for what has been completed.

Nathan reminded the Board that the contract that was signed stated that if the work were not completed, the contractor would not be paid. Kari would still like to pay the contractor for the work that they have done.

Bill asked Kari if she has inquired lawyers who can handle this, Kari has looked into and contacted. Discussion was held regarding whether or not a lawyer should be involved.

Marilyn asked if the contractor has been playing with numbers to get out of finishing the project. Kari said that she has asked him and he claims he wants to finish it.

Kari expressed her concern for the District's image. She would like to pay the contractor for the work they completed and would only like to involve a lawyer if necessary. She believes there just needs to be a letter written by a lawyer for the contractor to come to an agreement with the District. Kari mentioned that the Contract is only through February and that she does not plan to extend it.

**Motion: to approve contacting a lawyer**

**Vote:** YES – Pierce, Eagle, Freytag, Ellis      NO – VanNatta/Bergman

**Approved motion Passed.**

### REPORTS

#### **BOARD**

- KC still has snow at his property.

-Craig had a lot of fun making wine during his recent trip to Germany.

#### **KARI/Staff**

Kari met with Biohabitats to discuss RCPP. She has a meeting next week with NRCS to discuss the Watershed Plan. She enjoyed her time in Atlanta and made many contacts with other SWCD's, and NRCS offices and NGO's from across the country. She also mentioned that she would like to attend NACD in Denver, January 28 – February 2.

**Motion: Eagle/Freytag to allow Kari to attend NACD    Motion passed by unanimous vote**

***Eagle/Freytag moved to adjourn meeting***

**MEETING ADJOURNED 9:05 PM**

Respectfully Submitted by:

***Jennifer Steinke***

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant

Approved 01.18.17