



**Columbia  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

35285 Millard  
Road  
St. Helens, OR  
97051

www.columbiaswcd.com

**Minutes of the  
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors  
Meeting June 16, 2021**

**Directors Present:**

Jason Busch, Chair  
Jeff VanNatta, Treasurer  
Debra Brimacombe, Vice Chair  
Bill Eagle, Secretary  
Sonia Reagan, Director (via Zoom)

**Directors Absent:**

Dave Freytag, Director

**Associate Directors Present:**

Michael Calhoun (via Zoom)

**SWCD Staff:**

Nathan Herr, District Manager  
Jennifer Chavez, Outreach  
Coordinator  
Crystalyn Bush, Resource  
Conservationist  
Amber Kester, Riparian Specialist

**NRCS:**

Hannah Isaacs, District  
Conservationist

***Deb called the budget hearing to order at 4:04 PM***

-Jeff informed the board that he was approached by the fair board to see if the District would be willing to finance new gutters for the ag building at the fairgrounds. Bill explained that there is covid relief funding available to fair boards and would like to ensure the fair applies. Discussion was held. Nathan will contact the fair board to discuss the matter and bring the details back to the District board for further discussion.

*-Jason arrived 4:12 pm.*

-Nathan mentioned that he recently found three maps with different zoning perimeters for Columbia County. He emailed the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to clarify which map is considered accurate. He has not yet received a response, but recommends that no changes be made to the current At-Large positions that qualify for a zone. Brief discussion was held.

-Nathan also explained that he had a meeting with the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership on Monday to discuss the partnership with the District.

-There was no public comment.

*-Amber and Crystalyn arrived.*

**Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve to close the budget hearing at 4:31 PM and move into the regular board meeting. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Eagle/VanNatta to approve the Minutes from 05-19-21. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Financial Report: Motion Brimacombe/ Eagle to accept financial Report from 05-31-21. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bills to Pay: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve to pay the bills. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

APPROVED 07.21.2021



- **ODA Watershed Technical Specialist (WTS) Grant:** The Board received a copy of the CSWCD's Scope of Work (SOW) for the ODA WTS grant and reviewed.

**Motion VanNatta/Brimacombe** approve the ODA 2021-2023 SOW as presented. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

- **Contracts:** The Board received copies of the Carr Slough Phase 1 - Prescott Beach contract and the construction contract for the Clatskanie PUD project. Discussion was held. Jeff explained his concerns with the construction on the Clatskanie PUD project.

**Motion Eagle/Brimacombe** approve the Carr Slough Phase 1 – Prescott Beach contract for \$47,026.00. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Motion Eagle/VanNatta** approve the Clatskanie PUD construction contract for \$598,328.00. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### REPORTS (cont.)

#### BOARD

-Michael asked if the CSWCD was involved in a project in Hawkins Park in Vernonia. Nathan explained that the District is not, but that the watershed council might be. Michael also mentioned that there is a lot of ivy taking over the trees near the bridge in downtown Vernonia. Brief discussion held. Nathan will connect Michael and Crystalyn for assistance with removal. Michael also asked about the county zones, as he is interested in joining the Board. Nathan explained that he is waiting to hear back from ODA for clarification.

-Jeff is working on making rootwads for the Clatskanie PUD project. He also mentioned that he is still waiting to receive the pyroweeder but has a power harrow that he also plans to have a demonstration for at the Fair. Brief discussion held.

-Sonia mentioned that she would like to volunteer at the Fair if the District has a booth.

-Deb mentioned that volunteers recently removed ivy around Dalton Lake with funding through the City of St. Helens. She asked if the District has considered hosting a class regarding proper ivy removal. Discussion was held.

*-No other Board reports.*

#### STAFF

Nathan informed the Board that the Policy Committee met last week to begin updating the Personnel Policy. He added that he also attended a risk assessment webinar which should be beneficial when going through the Special District's Association of Oregon (SDAO)'s tech policy that was presented at last month's meeting.

He also included that a technician will be in tomorrow to fix the air conditioning upstairs in the office. Nathan also mentioned that the State's COVID-19 restrictions have the possibility of being lifted at the end of this month, though the District will continue to follow the CDC recommendations/guidelines. Brief discussion held.

*Eagle/VanNatta moved to adjourn meeting*

**MEETING ADJOURNED 5:52 PM**

Respectfully Submitted by: *Jennifer Chavez*  
Jennifer Chavez, Outreach Coordinator