

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

REPORTS**NRCS**

Don explained that he has been very busy. They have 27 EQIP and four RCPP applications that are in the process of contracting and there are four high tunnel applications awaiting funding. He also added that there are two new CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategies) that Leo Preston, the North Coast and Lower Willamette Basin Team Leader, will be moving forward to the leadership team for approval. One program is the Nehalem Valley Soil Health and Water Quality. The second program is the Columbia Corridor Soil Health and Water Quality. The Leadership team will be meeting this week to review and approve the CIS's across the state.

Don added that there is only one year left of the Forest Diversity program. Randy asked if the program has had much success. Don explained that there has been a lot of interest and believes it went well. He is happy with the outcome and glad to have new customers because of the program. Lona asked if the new programs will include forestry, they will.

Don also explained that the North Coast Basin has lost more employees and are still unable to hire more. He added that NRCS is not on a hiring freeze, but the state is only allowed to hire a certain number of employees. He also added that there are several state positions open. Brief discussion held.

LCRWC

Kari explained that the Council hired on contract two people to manage the coordinator role for the council. The contract runs through June 30, 2018. She added that the Council had their merit criteria interview last Thursday, but they won't know the status for about one month. Brief discussion held.

Randy is asking the Council to perform a nutrient study in the streams, adding that there is hardly any aquatic life. He said that the water is clean, pure enough to drink without treatment and only minor sediment so he is curious why there is minimal aquatic life. Lona stated that she saw the District's Facebook video of lamprey and added that Randy should reach out to Nathan Herr, a Resource Conservationist with the District, to discuss what else they may have seen. Discussion was held.

SBWC

Kari mentioned that Nathan will be in Veteran's Park tomorrow to attend the contractor walk with the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Workplan:** The Board members were given a copy of the workplan to review. Bill mentioned that he is glad the District is working with the schools. Kari stated that she is leaving Water Quality Monitoring on the workplan, though there is no funding at this time. Lona added that she would like to add to the action items to "try to get more Associate Directors". Randy noted that under Partner Projects, the LCRWC is working in Page Creek. He stated that Erickson Creek should also be on the workplan, adding that it is larger than Page Creek but is always forgotten. Kari explained that she will speak with the Council tomorrow to bring attention to the area and will add it under "Project Development" in the workplan. Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

- **DAS RM (Department of Administrative Services Risk Management) Insurance:** The Board was given a handout of the Draft ODA DAS RM Issue Paper. Kari explained that in the past, ODA (Oregon Department of Agriculture) has paid for SWCD's TORT insurance but will no longer cover this after biennium is over. Kari added that the Columbia SWCD is already

well insured, they will just no longer be double insured.

- **Policy Changes:** Bill explained that he received an email from Jason Busch and read the email to the Board, which explained Jason is in favor of the Policy Changes. Bill also expressed his appreciation of Lona's efforts in creating a more understandable Policy. The Board was given a copy of the changes, Lona explained what the markups represented throughout the policies. KC referenced page 34 of the Personnel Policies, asking Kari if there is a system set up for alcohol/drug testing. Kari explained that it would be done through SDAO. Discussion was held.

KC also referenced the Safety chapter, adding that all employees should have a hard hat and vest with a whistle attached and gloves in the pockets. He added that there should also be a bucket with fire gear in the vehicles. Kari explained that the District's safety committee will look this over and ensure items are available if they are not already.

Motion: VanNatta/Eagle to accept the District's Policy Committee's recommendations.

Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion: Eagle/Freytag to accept the Board Code of Conduct with the revisions from the Personnel Committee. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Discussion was held.

Don left at 8:15 pm.

The Board reviewed the Personnel Policy. Brief discussion was held.

Motion: Eagle/VanNatta to accept the Personnel Policy with the recommended changes from the Policy Committee. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

- **County Fair:** Kari explained that the outreach partnership with the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (through Social Media) has been going really well. The District and SBWC would like to strengthen the partnerships by hosting a booth at the County Fair together. She added that Noxious Weeds and Native Plants are an obvious connection between the District and Councils, which would be the main focus of the booth to draw in county residents. She added that the booth would be located in the Ag Building, which has less requirements than on the main booths outside (less volunteer time needed). KC added that the LCRWC discussed this at their last meeting and seem interested in participating. Kari mentioned that the UNWC has expressed interest also. Brief discussion was held.
- **Legal Counsel:** Kari provided the Board with a copy of the Contract Proposal from Attorney Bob Salisbury. She mentioned that many local attorneys recommended him for the District, he is the only active attorney who handles Special Districts within the county. Kari added that he has a small farm in Yankton and is a member of the Yankton Grange. Kari also mentioned that the District would be billed monthly unless no services were provided. The discussed rate would be \$200/hour for Bob's time and \$60/hour for his staff.

Motion: Bergman/VanNatta approve District Manager to engage proposal of a contract and come back next month with a detailed response from the attorney and the Board will vote on the contract. **Approved by 3, Pierce and Eagle Opposed. Motion Failed.**

Brief discussion was held. Kari added that she would like the District to keep money within the county. She also mentioned that Bob Salisbury has worked with the Port of St. Helens for over 7 years. She reminded the Board that the District can always cancel contract if they were not happy with the service. Bob is well versed in special districts, also recently signed on as Deer Island Drainage District's attorney and understands Special District needs.

Discussion was held.

Motion: Eagle/Freytag to accept Bob Salisbury as the District's attorney. **Approved 3, KC opposed, believes there's a Conflict of Interest. Motion Failed.**

KC explained that he did not have enough of a notice to ask Robert VanNatta or Agnes

Petersen. Kari explained that the Board approved Legal Counsel for the District over a year ago and that Robert VanNatta would be a conflict of interest for herself. She asked if the Board would like Bob to attend next month's meeting. Discussion held. Randy would like more options.

LAC meeting

Randy stated that the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting will be held on June 6th. He would like affirmation from the Board about the manure issues in Columbia County. He doesn't believe there are any issues within the county and believes that the LAC needs to be adjusted a bit. He also believes that the Board should discuss whether or not West Multnomah should be attending the LAC meetings if they have no dairy cows within their county. He is hopeful that the Board will discuss what he and KC should say at the next LAC meeting regarding the issue. Lona asked if LAC has a website she could visit to learn more information. Randy said Brenda Sanchez is the local rep. for the basin and has a link through ODA. Kari added that ODA has an Ag. Water Quality Program on their website that Lona could go to which would provide more information on what is being discussed. Kari also mentioned that the LAC is the local advisory for our basin, which includes Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties as well as Sauvie Island.

Randy added that he would like the Board to write a letter to ODA that explains that the manure problems are solved in the North Coast Basin and would like to have a 5-year program rather than 2 years. Kari believes that there would need to be proof to back the proposal up, and that there are livestock other than cattle that can contribute to Ag Water Quality issues. Discussion was held. Randy believes that LAC has ran its course and believes a new title should be invented in its place. Lona doesn't think that the Board has enough information to write a letter at this time. Brief discussion held.

REPORTS

BOARD

- Bill attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting where he handed out a lot of copies of the "Backyard Conservation" booklets from the District office, adding that they were very well received. He will also be attending the SDAO class for Board responsibilities next week.
- KC mentioned that the river is currently over 17.5 feet. Brief discussion was held about flooding.

STAFF

A copy of the Manager's Report was given to the Board. Kari also reminded the Board that elections will be coming up in November. Lona, KC and Randy's positions are up. She added that they will need to turn in their applications between July 19 and August 28. She also mentioned that Manette with ODA is retiring. Brief discussion held.

Eagle/Freytag moved to adjourn meeting
MEETING ADJOURNED 9:28 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant