

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- **New Hires:** Kari discussed the new Resource Conservationist hires, Selene Keeney and Monica Blanchard. Selene started Monday of this week and the board was given a brief summary of her work history. Kari said that Selene is already a great asset to the team. Monica will begin working with the District on August 1 and a brief work history was discussed with the board.
- **Job Description Updates:** The board was given a copy of the Resource Conservationist Job Description as well as an updated description for Nathan. The district would like to change Nathan's title to Senior Resource Conservationist, which includes minimal changes to his description. Kari explained that the main difference between the Senior RC and RC description is the supervision given. Nathan will hold 1:1 meetings with the RC's and be able to help the District Manager review the RC's work. Discussion was held on the wages shown for the updated position.

Motion to approve job description update. VanNatta/Ellis to approve. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

- **RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program):** Kari explained that a request for funding can now be submitted. There was a kick-off meeting a couple weeks ago to discuss where to begin and there will be more meeting to come, including meetings with the landowners. Lona asked Kari if she knows which project will be first. Kari explained there are a few priority projects in mind; Clatskanie 5 & 6 on Schaffer Rd., Stewart Creek stream bank stabilization, which will take a couple of years, and Carr Slough is also another priority project. Randy asked if the price has been approved yet. Kari stated the purchase agreement has not been agreed upon yet. Kari went on to explain that some projects are ready to move forward, some need more planning and some have not really been explored yet.
- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection):** Kari stated that she would like to focus on the priority projects first. The District is still waiting on designs for the JPA (Joint Permit Application) but it is done as far as the district can finish without the designs. Kari explained that the sheet piling and Rainier sink hole projects are tough but moving. Randy said that the sheet piling in Clatskanie is a quick fix and does not expect it to last long.
- **OACD Dues:** There was not a decision/motion made during last month's meeting about the OACD Dues, and whether or not the District would pay. Randy mentioned that he has been trying to figure out what is happening in Clatsop County. He stated that if we pay our dues and Tillamook County pays, we'd be carrying Clatsop County on our shoulders. Discussion was held regarding Clatsop County. It was mentioned that the county is in suppression and that they do not want to spend money on an SWCD. It was also discussed that Astoria has several issues they need to take care of and are not. Bill stated that there are challenges in Clatsop County and that there is real need for an SWCD. He mentioned that they do not pay as much for their dues but that he does not see an issue with helping them out. Kari added that help has been offered to the county; ODA comes out several times a year to give advice and guides them to The District though they have not followed through to ask for assistance.

Motion to approve paying dues. Pierce/Ellis to Approve. **Vote:** YES – Pierce, Eagle, VanNatta, Bergman, Ellis NO - Freytag

Approved motion Passed.

- **Audit Letter:** The kick off letter was received this week and given to the Board. Dennis Connor will begin the audit at the end of August.

NEW BUSINESS

- **SDAO Board Training/Networking (Special Districts Association of Oregon):** Kari reviewed with the board the upcoming dates for the SDAO Training and Networking. The Networking class will be at the Columbia 911 building on 08/17 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Bill highly encourages the board to attend, stating there will be multiple special districts attending.

The SDAO Training will take place in Tigard on 08/23 from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Bill mentioned that there will be valuable information provided and that the training is great. Bill also stated that SDAO is very interested in our water study and might even be willing to help fund.

Kari asked that the board let her know if they would like to attend. She will need to know soon in order to get them registered in time. KC stated that the board should be paid to go the meetings since some people would need to take time off to go. Kari reassured that there is a policy in place that pays the board to attend, \$50.00 per day for meetings other than regular scheduled board meetings.
- **Ag. Water Quality – LAC Meeting:** Randy stated that there isn't too much to discuss on ag. water quality in Columbia County. He went on to say that the Vernonia Waste Water Treatment Plan is an issue. He stated that ODA cannot help but believes the SWCD can. Bill asked about Fishhawk, Kari stated there is a solution being discussed. Don said they are trying to find a way to drain from the bottom, removing the glory hole. Jason said that it seems like Vernonia has been working on this issue for quite a few years.

Don went on to discuss the ODA - SIA grant, mentioning that ODA turned down the grant. Kari stated that ODA did not turn the grant down, it was sent back to be re-written, needing to be more ag-focused. The SWCD will offer assistance to Maggie for the re-write. Randy thinks that ODA should be proud of the progress we have made in the county. Kari informed the board that the LAC Bi-Annual meeting will be on July 28 in Astoria, possibly near the museum. She will email the board with the details and anyone is welcome to attend.

KC expressed his concerns regarding Milton Creek. Kari stated that the last 6-9 months was our outreach time, but that is our main focus area for Ag. Water. The challenge is finding voluntary property owners. SBWC has monitoring sample from the Milton creek, though it isn't recent. Kari is hopeful that we will be able to collaborate with SBWC in obtaining future monitoring samples. Dave asked how our water studies have been going. Kari stated the District and LDS would get together once the emergency projects finish. She stated that LDS has \$5,000 in their budget for this.
- **Celebration (70th Anniversary):** On December 23 of this year, the District will have been active for 70 years. The watersheds in the area will be reaching 20 years this year as well. The District is holding an Anniversary Celebration on October 8 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Pavilion. Silent and Live auctions will be held to grow a fund for the schools in the county for Agriculture Education if they would like to apply for a grant.

KC asked what kind of donations the District is accepting for the auctions. Kari explained that any donation is appreciated. She discussed a few donations that have been received so far, such as a stay at a hotel, one-hour massage and even a kayak or paddleboard with full gear and a complimentary tour for six on the Columbia River. Kari also explained the many gift baskets Crys' mom, Nancy, has generously put together for the district. KC mentioned donating a pick-up load of wood and Craig was thinking of donating a weekend getaway. Kari asked Randy if he would still be interested in helping donate meat for the evening, he is unsure at this time. Kari stated if not, she will talk with CC Brewing.

REPORTS

BOARD

Bill reminded the board that their election packets need to be in to ODA after July 31st. He had mailed it in too soon and it was sent back to him. He also informed that he had taken the District's newsletter, The Dirt, to the Koffee Klatsch and that everyone loved it.

Jason mentioned that his neighbor up the road has successfully started growing marijuana and he is concerned since the main water source is the creek. Jason explained that the creek's water level is very low and to produce marijuana there is a need for about 3.2 gallons of water for one plant. He believes his neighbor will need about 1,900 gallons per day. Discussion was held on whether or not the county or planning commission approves the permit. Jason mentioned he was just hoping the SWCD could look into it. Jason also wanted to discuss the Nehalem River. He stated that there are about 250 loads of soil being moved from the riverbank to the Vernonia baseball field and he is concerned with that amount being removed in such a short amount of time before winter. The board again discussed whether a permit is needed. Jason understands the SWCD is non-regulatory but wanted to state his concerns.

KC informed that a new bridge will be going in across from the Clatskanie Bridge off Apiary Rd. The new bridge is expected to be wider.

KARI

Kari informed the board that the Merrill Creek and Hills Haven projects are a go. There is a driveway that washed out during the flood which FEMA and EWP were not able to help fund. The property owners agreed to pay for the culvert and EWP agreed to pay for the dirt that is needed. Kari believes that it helped the approval having the designs already completed.

NRCS/DON

Don informed the board that he is waiting to hear back from the panel and state regarding the engineer position. He also stated that there is a lot of knotweed in the area and believes that beavers are the main culprit for spreading the plant and causing damage. Don also mentioned that he is caught up with Equip and a lot of work to come with EWP.

LCRWC/MARGARET

Margaret discussed the EWP/FEMA projects on the Clatskanie River, Fox Creek and OK Creek. Surveying, engineering and permitting is in progress. LCRWC is also continuing to work with landowners on the direction of Carr Slough. Margaret was also very excited to announce that The Western Governors Association will be addressing invasive species (especially knotweed).

Bergman/Freytag moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant