



**Minutes of the
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors
Meeting January 18, 2017**

Directors Present:

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

Public:

Margaret Magruder
Claudia Eagle
Craig Allison

SWCD Staff:

Kari Olsen-Hollander, DM
Jennifer Steinke, OA

SBWC:

Lonny Welter

LCRWC:

Marilyn VanNatta

CALL TO ORDER OF ANNUAL MEETING: 6:30 PM

ANNUAL MEETING

Introductions were made

- **Annual Report:** All attendees were given a copy of the report. Kari reflected on the District's highlights from this last year and what her plans are for this coming year. Majority of work this past year has been emergency projects, a lot more outreach has been done in the last year as well for weeds. Post cards and calendars have been sent out and she hopes to get a deeper focus this year so the district can address weeds in a different way. **Motion** Bergman/Freytag to accept Annual Report. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Motion Bergman/Ellis to adjourn Annual Meeting. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING: 6:50 PM

Prior Month's Minutes: **Motion** VanNatta/Ellis to approve the Minutes from 12-21-16. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Financial Report: **Motion** VanNatta/Freytag to accept financial Report from 12-31-16. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

OLD BUSINESS

- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection):** Kari stated that the EWP projects are still moving forward. She and the Contractor with Fox Creek have come to an agreement and are now awaiting NRCS' payment.
Other projects should end by June, funds will not go past June 15th.
KC mentioned that Merrill Creek looked dirtier than expected when he drove by tonight.
Discussion was held regarding the creek and recent weather.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Phone System:** Kari notified the board that we have been having issues with our phone system. The district's phones are currently through NRCS' system which is upgraded about every 2 years, getting worse each time. The most recent upgrade was switching everyone to their own direct line/number. The District has received many complaints from landowners, the senator, and partners. Kari informed the Board that she would like to look for a new phone system for the District, a company separate from NRCS. Randy expressed that he has not had any issues getting through to someone when he calls. Kari reminded the Board that the public does not have a copy of everyone's direct numbers. She just wanted to inform the board that she will be looking around for new options to propose at a later time.
Randy mentioned that it may be easier to have one person as a point of contact who can transfer calls as needed so that callers do not feel ignored and can actually speak with someone. Kari said that this has been discussed and is something she will look further into.
- **Oath of Office for Newly Elected Directors:** Randy administered the oath of office to Jason Busch, Bill Eagle, Craig Ellis and Dave Freytag.
- **Election of Officers:** Randy called for nominations for Chair. Dave moved to keep Bill as chairman. KC moved to elect Craig, Bill seconded the motion made by KC. Secret vote was taken; **Craig: 5, Bill:2. Motion Approved.** Randy then turned the meeting over to Craig. Craig called for nominations for Vice Chair. Dave moved to elect Bill. **Motion: Freytag/KC to cast ballot for a unanimous vote for Bill for vice chair. Approved.** Craig called for nominations for secretary. Bill moved to keep Lona as Secretary. **Motion: Eagle/VanNatta to cast ballot for a unanimous vote for Lona for secretary. Approved.** Craig called for nominations for Treasurer. Dave moved to keep KC as Treasurer. **Motion: Freytag/Pierce to cast ballot for a unanimous vote for Kay C. for treasurer. Approved.**

REPORTS

BOARD

- Randy asked what the District will do about the frozen pipes. Kari said that last time they had to bring a heater out and manually thaw the pipe. She stated she is unsure where the issue is this time so she wants to wait until everything is thawed before investigating. Last time the issue was close to the building, Kari believes it is closer to the street this time.
- Lona attended a bird count at Sauvie Island on January 2nd. She said that there were a lot of different groups and that it was very interesting and enjoyable.
- Craig mentioned that he will be leaving soon to go back to Germany, and plans to stay there for about 7 weeks. He also mentioned that he recently saw some white tail deer on his property which was nice, he doesn't see as many as he used to.

KARI/Staff

Kari explained that it's been a little busy at the office due to inclement weather and that the District is just trying to keep EWP going. There have been a few site visits within the last few weeks, one being near Rock Creek which Kari would like to engage with UNWC for some aspects. She also mentioned a possible project along the Clatskanie River which might involve OWEB. She also reminded the board that we are nearing Budget season. She said that the Work plan and Budget for the council is being worked on.

Eagle/Pierce moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant