



**Columbia
Soil & Water**
Conservation District

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**Minutes of the
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors
Meeting October 12, 2016**

Directors Present:

Bill Eagle, Chair
Kay C. VanNatta, Treasurer
Lona Pierce, Secretary
Randy Bergman, Director
Dave Freytag, Director

SWCD Staff:

Kari Olsen-Hollander, DM
Jennifer Steinke, OA
Monica Blanchard, RC

Directors Absent:

Craig Ellis, Director
Jason Busch, Vice Chair

LCRWC:

Marilyn VanNatta

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING: 7:00 PM

Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Pierce/Freytag to approve the Minutes from 08-17-16. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Financial Report: Motion VanNatta/Pierce to accept financial Report from 08-31-16. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Financial Report: Motion VanNatta/Pierce to accept financial Report from 09-30-16. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

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

Approved 11.16.16

Kari mentioned that the letter of concurrence for the Clatskanie River Projects had been received at the end of September so Aquatic Contracting should be starting sometime next week once the storm passes.

Kari also informed the Board that there were some issues at the Merrill Creek project site with the soil but is very happy to be working with Abbey (Herrera) and Justin (Aquatic Contracting), stating it is a great team.

The Fox Creek culverts have been ordered and should be here in a couple weeks. There was a pre-bid construction meeting today and Kari believes the project will start moving this week.

Kari informed the Board that the Scappoose Sewer Line is finished and that the District should have the money from NRCS by Monday. She stated there was great feedback from the City and it seems they want the SWCD involved in any future Natural Resource projects and possibly assistance with permits as well.

Kari mentioned that there was a similar conversation with Clatskanie but believes the relationship needs to build.

Randy stated that the Drainage District from Scappoose Residential is a question for point and non-point pollution. Discussion was held regarding the collected water in Scappoose.

Kari informed the Board that the Aulbach design was finished last week and hopes to move forward once weather allows.

- **OACD Business Meeting:** Kari reminded the Board of the OACD Meeting next week (Tuesday and Wednesday) and explained that this will be a great chance to tell them what is and isn't working, and what they would like to see.

NEW BUSINESS

- **December Board Meeting (Dec. 21st):** Discussion was held regarding December's Board meeting due to the meeting falling close to the Holidays. All Board members present stated they should be in town that week and should be able to make it to the December Board meeting.
- **SDAO Best Practices Checklist:** The SDAO Checklist was reviewed and completed with the Board.
- **Oregon Ethics Law Policy:** Policy was approved.

Motion: VanNatta/Freytag to approve Oregon Ethics Law Policy. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

- **New Board Member Mileage/Expense Sheet:** A copy of the sheet was given to the Board. Malysa will also email members a copy. Kari explained that this covers SWCD related meetings and that members could turn them in each week or each month as needed.
- **OACD/NACD Survey:** Randy wanted to bring up a local landowner as an example of what OACD is trying to get across. Path of progression for landowners to be able to give property away to family, SWCD's, etc. without a tax-levy on the transaction. Randy stated that ideas have been circulating with OACD and doesn't like that they can turn around and sell after not having to pay taxes on the property. Lona asked about Yamhill SWCD. She said that they rent the land to a young farmer who pays a lease and taxes what he grows and sells. Kari explained that Yamhill was not taken off tax rolls, and that they pay taxes. Lona asked if the local landowner's property would have taxes if given to the city. Randy stated that real-estate taxes would still need to be paid. Kari stated that the survey had a deadline but will be a topic at next week's OACD meeting.

NACD Survey: The NACD survey is not a survey that the District or Board have to do. NACD would like the Board to find local farmers to complete the survey. Randy stated that there aren't many farmers in Columbia County that this would be applicable to. Kari mentioned that Don might have some local farmers in mind.

- **Fairgrounds – Ag Building:** Kari informed the board that if they would still like to move forward with sponsoring the Ag Building (with grants and assistance from the Warren Grange) that a proposal is needed for the concrete floor. She stated that she put in a request to utilize the building once a year, which will most likely be for our celebrations. Kari would like approval to begin the proposal for the Board; it will be about \$20-25k for the floor.

Motion: VanNatta/Bergman to approve writing a proposal. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Discussion was held regarding the SWCD sponsoring the Ag Building at the Fairgrounds. Kari discussed that the plan is still to paint the walls as well. Randy mentioned that there should be an agreement with the Fairgrounds that the Ag Building can not be torn down or flooring destroyed for ten years or so.

REPORTS

BOARD

- Bill discussed the 70th Anniversary Celebration and stated that he has heard great feedback from many people that attended. He also mentioned how great it was that we were able to use the pavilion free of charge.
- Kay C. mentioned that it would have been nice to have a Live Auction Display sheet at every table. He also attended the Pre-Construction Bid Meeting today at Fox Creek. A brief discussion was held regarding the meeting.
- Randy informed the Board that he wasn't at the Celebration because an old friend invited him to go pheasant hunting. He explained that the hunting was a disaster because the birds wouldn't flush and would only run away. He also mentioned that his group experienced Native Americans fishing from platforms, which was really interesting and fun.
- Lona commented that she recently went to the Bonneville Dam and there were a lot of Coho and Chinook salmon, which was fun to see. She also mentioned that the SBWC would be having a native plant sale this weekend. She also discussed her trip to Europe, said it was a lot of fun, and went really well. They spent about a month there and traveled with about 20 other people.
- Dave stated that he was not at the Celebration due to being very ill.

KARI/Staff

The Board was provided a handout of the Manager's Report.

Kari informed the Board that the Audit is currently in progress and believes it will go smoother than last year. She also mentioned that the Annual Report is being prepared as well. Spraying for Knotweed has begun; they recently finished treating North Scappoose Creek. Grant updates were discussed; McBride culverts were not approved, RCPP agreement with NRCS was signed and fully executed (Tyler and Selene working on) and the District is waiting on landowner's decision to proceed with Carr Slough Funding request.

Kari also discussed the 70th Anniversary Celebration with the board, informing them that 160 attended. She stated that she has received several emails and phone calls expressing their enjoyment of the evening.

Approved 11.16.16

Kari reminded the Board that she will be out for at least 6 weeks on medical leave starting November 16th.

Randy mentioned that Wetlands should be discussed. He stated that he believes there are failed wetlands, especially Louisiana Swamp, where canary grass is being choked out and where Coho salmon should be.

A short discussion was held.

VanNatta/Pierce moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant