

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REPORTS**SBWC**

Lona informed the board that the SBWC's native plant sale was very busy and that it is probably the best sale they have had so far. She mentioned that the weather was nice during the sale. Randy asked what kinds of plants were being bought. Lona said that a lot of trees and shrubs were being purchased this year. She also said that many of the plants hadn't bloomed yet because of the weather, but people were buying all types of plants.

OLD BUSINESS

- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection):** Kari informed the Board that the Bid Documents for Fox Creek were due yesterday. The district will be moving forward with Tapani, a construction company out of Vancouver, WA. Kari mentioned that Tapani already has the proper equipment and that she feels good about the company and the price. Randy stated that he is worried that the City will walk away from the project without finishing later. Kari reminded that there would be fines if they don't move forward and that there are three state agencies keeping an eye on the project. Lona asked when the city agreed to daylight the project, Kari said that by 2021 the culvert would be day lighted or under construction. She reminded the Board that the District will not be putting any money into the project but will be seeing it through. Randy mentioned that he doesn't think the District should have any business in the project and that it is the city's responsibility. Lona asked why the District is helping with the project right now, but not when the city will be day lighting. Kari stated that what the District is currently doing is to help the landowners and business owners. EWP is a quick fix, day lighting the area would be a permanent fix and would not be EWP.
Further discussion was held.
- **Phone System:** Kari informed the Board that the new phone system is in place and being used. KC stated he is still getting the recording, Randy mentioned he hasn't had any issues. Kari said that the District would be highlighting the new phone number, (503) 433-3205, on all publications.
- **Work Plan 2017-2019:** A handout was given to the Board at last month's meeting. Kari quickly reviewed the handout. Lona mentioned that when the District is working within a Watershed Council's district, she would like to see that the District notifies the Council, even if they are not assisting. Kari agreed. Kari also mentioned that Crystalyn is working on creating a sign to advertise the District during projects.

Motion: Eagle/VanNatta to approve the Work Plan. **Approved Motion Passed by unanimous vote.**

- **Budget Meeting Reminder:** Kari reminded the Board that there is a Budget Meeting scheduled for April 27 at 6:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Associate Directors:** The Board has not yet re-established. Kari mentioned that if anyone from the public shows interest, we should be sending them this way.

Motion: Eagle/KC to re-appoint Directors and include Pat Schenk. **Approved Motion Passed by unanimous vote.**

- **New Cooperators:**

Jan Brady, Deer Island, 40 acres

Rainier Heritage Farm, Rainier, 69.5 acres

Eric Ernst, 80 acres

Motion: Eagle/Pierce to approve New Cooperators. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**

- **Ag Building – Fairgrounds:** Kari informed the Board that she spoke with County Commissioners today with Butch from the Fairgrounds to discuss the partnership. Kari stated that most of the items needed for the Ag Building are being donated by local businesses and some from Portland. She believes that the district may only be putting in \$5,000 total. Kari also mentioned that the District would be getting advertising in return. She also informed that the Warren Grange and local school might create display cases for the building also. She would like to collect historic photos from around the county to put in the building and possibly some interpretive signs from NRCS' outreach regarding soil health, rain gardens, etc. In exchange for the partnership, the District will be getting a sign with business name and use of one of the Fairgrounds' buildings 1 time/year. She also informed the Board that there will be an agreement that the flooring cannot be torn up for 20 years, the agreement will be coming soon.
- **OACD:** Kari informed that Jerry will be leaving OACD. Randy mentioned that there will be a lot of changes with OACD after Connect in May, he is optimistic for good to come from the change. Discussion was held.
- **Clatsop SWCD:** Kari mentioned at last month's meeting that Clatsop SWCD has been without a technician for a while and that they are hoping to put the job open by next week. She informed the Board that Clatsop is willing to pay Columbia SWCD for help. Specifically, with writing grants and site visits. ODA has given the OK to help. Clatsop has agreed to pay the Columbia SWCD \$2,000/week and we will provide 1 week of help per quarter. Discussion was held.

Motion: Pierce/Eagle to approve Partnership for 1 week per 1 quarter for Technical Assistance training purposes with Clatsop SWCD. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Kari mentioned that a larger watershed plan will be down the road.

REPORTS (Cont.)

BOARD

-Bill informed the Board that his wife, Claudia, has been chosen as St. Helens' My Fair Lady candidate. He also discussed that NRCS will be having an Engineer in the office soon. Kari stated that he will most likely be in the office by June.

-Craig mentioned that the weather in Germany was mild while he was there, only 60 degrees but not bad, unlike how Oregon has been. He said that after returning to OR, the weather significantly changed in Germany, about 20 degrees currently but still not as wet as Oregon.

-KC had a meeting in Las Vegas recently. He drove there and back and stated that the road through Cave Junction was nearly in the ocean. He said that there was water everywhere in California. He mentioned that they came through Nevada on their way home and that it seemed like a different world, the desert was full of life.

-Randy stated that he wanted to talk about fish. He claimed that he is upset about Coastal Coho, he feels like there has been a lot of work done to help the Coho but feels like many people/agencies are pushing back. He stated that the fish are endangered. He mentioned that the North Fork of the Nehalem there is a good amount of Coho, but that the river mostly only has trout. Discussion held regarding fish in the Nehalem.

STAFF

Kari informed the Board that the District is “writing grants like never before”. She stated that most grants are due between April 30 – May 18. She also mentioned that the Watershed Plan is going well. She also said that she and Monica will be meeting with an Ecologist to discuss an economic piece for Coho. She also attended a partnership meeting last week with ODA and OWEB. She claimed it was a good meeting; there were eight SWCD’s and a few other agencies.

Eagle/VanNatta moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant