



**Minutes of the
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors
Meeting January 16, 2019**

Directors Present:

Bill Eagle, Secretary
Dave Freytag, Director
Jeff Van Natta, Treasurer
Debra Brimacombe, Director
Jason Busch, Chair
Craig Ellis, Chair
Randy Bergman, Vice Chair

Watershed Councils:

Marilyn Van Natta, LCRWC
Kay C. Van Natta

SWCD Staff:

Kari Hollander, DM
Malyssa Legg, ADM
Jennifer Steinke, OC
Nathan Herr, SRC

Public:

Kevin Chavez
Claudia Eagle
Jason Legg
Bob and Erin Salisbury
Craig Allison
Natasha Parvey
Evelyn Hudson
Eva Frost
Julia Busch

Rainier FFA:

Katie Harris, FFA Advisor
Grace Shulda, President
Alexis Crape, Vice President

- **Guest Presentation – FFA:** Grace Shulda, President of Rainier FFA, and Alexis Crape, Vice President of Rainier FFA, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Rainier FFA program. Grace explained the Future Farmers of America’s mission. Alexis discussed the fundraisers that FFA have held and participated in. Alexis also discussed the NW District leadership conference in Hillsboro that FFA attends each year, adding that it is a great time for bonding with the team and learning leadership skills. Grace discussed that their first Career Development Event (FFA competition) this year was in Ag sales, adding that they took first place last year with only one team. This year, they had three teams, two advanced and one beginning team, which was made up of all middle school aged students that competed against high schoolers. The beginning team placed third in the competition, as well as one of the advanced team. Alexis explained that she attended a parli pro competition which she finds to be beneficial to apply to the 4-h program that she is also involved in. Bob asked what parli pro is, she explained that it is Parliamentary Procedure, which helps members learn how to run meetings. Grace mentioned that she was the first student to show at the County Fair with FFA in about 20 years. Discussion was held. Katie Harris, FFA advisor, stated that FFA is always looking for more help and community involvement for their Ag program. She mentioned that there are Volunteer Resource Inventory Forms for those who would like to volunteer. Brief discussion held.
- **Staff Presentations – Nathan Herr, Senior Resource Conservationist:** Nathan gave a PowerPoint presentation on Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS) and the partnership between the District and the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). Nathan explained

that the District has always partnered with NRCS, but NRCS' services are changing, allowing the District to be of more assistance than before. He added that the CIS usually begin with a Local Workgroup, where local landowners and community members attend a meeting that NRCS facilitates to discuss issues within the county that NRCS might be able to help take care of. Nathan explained that around 2015 they began to feel as though smaller acreage lands were being overlooked through the NRCS funding, leading them to begin the Small Market Garden meetings, separate from the local work groups and directed toward smaller land users/owners. Nathan explained that the Small Market Meetings are held to determine if the District and NRCS could partner together with the community to provide technical or financial assistance on their properties. He added that from the Small Market Garden meetings, the Columbia Corridor Soil Health Recovery CIS was formed. The goal of this CIS is not to see how much acreage they can assist with, rather how many individual landowners they can work with. Nathan added that the next Local Work Group meeting will be held in the CSWCD's Meeting Room from 1-3pm on Thursday, January 31.

Nathan also presented and discussed previous projects that the District worked on during this past Summer. He explained where the Dribble Creek project was held (Dribble Creek is a tributary of the main-stem Clatskanie River) and added that it is on John Hancock property, who has become an extremely great partner with the District from this project. The District removed an old culvert from the creek and returned the area to a natural state. Discussion held. The Fishhawk Creek Restoration project was within the Nehalem Basin. The landowners were interested in trying to take care of a cut bank on their property. The District applied for funding to stabilize the stream bank (peel the bank back to stabilize soil, and put in root wads). The expectation with the root wads is that they will eventually rot away, but the hope is that there will be vegetation there by that time. Brief discussion held.

Nathan also discussed the District's future projects, the first being the Perkin's Creek project. He explained that the creek runs along a county road but makes two right-angle turns, causing the creek to flood over the road almost yearly. The District is currently in the design-phase for this project and hopes to implement in the spring.

The District also recently applied for funds for implementation on the Clatskanie Headwaters Fish Passage Restoration Project. The project came off of the John Hancock partnership that was created from the Dribble Creek Project. This project is upstream of the main projects the District has done over the past 5 years on the mainstem of the Clatskanie River. Nathan expressed his excitement for the partnership. The District plans to remove a 5' culvert and replace it with a 55' bridge. Discussion held.

- **Guest Presentation – Natasha Parvey, Keep it Local Columbia County (KLCC):** Natasha introduced herself and the KLCC program, adding that it is simply and basically a marketing campaign. Instead of phone books, they have added a phone directory online to their website, keepitlocalcc.com. KLCC provides free advertising for local businesses, non-profits, local resources, and bringing the county together. Natasha added that KLCC also has a weekly radio show with KOHI, which airs Monday - Friday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Natasha also explained that the KLCC website offers free advertising for events which is a huge section of their site. KLCC is also working towards more partnerships, which Natasha mentioned that she has been speaking with Kari on holding an event in the fall. KLCC has always done a Shop Small Saturday event and she would like to partner with the District for assistance with this event and showcase all of the local businesses in the county. Keep it Local also works with the local farmers markets and tries to connect local dieticians to farmers. Keep it Local CC is to help educate and connect the county.
- **Guest Presentation – Eva Frost & Evelyn Hudson, Warren Grange:** Eva explained that a lot of the interests between the Grange and CSWCD are very common. She went on to discuss that the definition of farm is very different today than it was years ago. Farm used to mean a large, working farm. Though today, a farm can simply be a raised garden in a backyard. Eva also

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

REPORTS**NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Services)**

Kari informed the Board that the main item to report on for NRCS is the Local Work Group that will be held on January 31st from 1-3 pm in the CSWCD meeting room. She explained that about 10 years ago, NRCS really shifted away from giving the SWCD the ability to partner well with them, so Don and the District have been working hard over the last three years to bridge that gap in the partnership. Bob Salisbury asked what happens at the meeting. Kari explained that local people and some agency folks get together to discuss what the actual priorities for conservation issues in Columbia County are. She added that they determine what their needs are and how they can serve them better.

LCRWC (Lower Columbia River Watershed Council)

Randy explained that the Watershed Council is trying to get on a new track and obtain projects. He added that there isn't anything new, and fresh or exciting to move along, which he feels is a problem. Brief discussion held. Randy mentioned that there will be a Tide Gate Meeting in Tillamook tomorrow, and one in Clatskanie on Friday. Discussion held. There will be a Strategic Action Plan for the Council on January 28th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the CSWCD with lunch provided.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Watershed Plan (RCPP):** Kari stated that the watershed plan is officially getting submitted to the National Watershed Team with NRCS on Friday. There will be a phone call with the team in two weeks to go over the plan and process, and then they will have 30 days to turn the plan back around to the local team with any comments. Discussion held.
- **Contracting Rules:** The final draft of the contracting rules was presented to the Board last month for approval. A minor change was requested and the Board agreed to postpone the approval to this meeting. Kari explained that there are new Board members, so she understands if there is hesitation with approving the document. Bob explained the changes he made to the prior Contracting Rules, adding that last month there was a discussion of concern with the “exemption for emergency contracts”, which he reviewed again and recommends that the Board leave the current language as written. Discussion was held. Randy would like to table the discussion/approval until next month's meeting so that Debra and Jeff have time to review it. Bob asked if the Board would like him to appear at next month's meeting. He does not need to attend.
- **Labor practices evaluation:** Kari explained that last month the Board voted to hire Richard Stellner to perform a labor practices evaluation of the District. The evaluation began last week, she should be receiving a call from him this week to discuss the next phase and explained that if she receives any information, she will pass it along. Jason asked if Richard would be contacting the Board members also, or if the evaluation was strictly within the employees. Kari explained that she believes the evaluation is only with the employees, and that Richard would then discuss the results with the Board. Bob asked how the Board would like to handle it, adding that Richard was going to talk to him, and he would then be in contact with the Chairman elected at tonight's meeting (Jason). Brief discussion held.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The Columbia County Emergency Management Service (CEMS) is updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kari explained that special districts, cities, etc. throughout the county are asked to submit a supplemental document (annex) to be

included in that. She mentioned that if there is an emergency or natural disaster and the District isn't part of the plan, any damaged SWCD facility could be repaired but not improved. If the SWCD is part of the plan, there is potential that if something drastic happened, additional mitigation dollars could be used to improve upon what existed, so as to lessen a future problem. She explained that they are looking at the county as a whole, which is an opportunity for the District to put comments in about concerns around the county having to do with soil and water. Kari mentioned that Shaun Brown with CCEMS met with the District's steering committee yesterday to help answer questions. Kari added that CCEMS will be requesting, through mitigation dollars from past emergencies, to put 17 depth monitors out for flood monitoring. She explained that the SWCD could benefit from the data, not only for knowing when the county is at a flood level, but the District will understand the depths/rises of the water throughout the county which will help for restoration projects and the landowners they work with. A draft of the Annex will be provided for the Board to review in February. She explained the Plan is due to CCEMS in March and then it will go through a series of public reviews over the next 4-6 months. Brief discussion held.

Randy has attended CCEMS meetings and is concerned what would happen if there is a seismic event, and is curious what control NW Natural has on the storage wells to turn gas off if there is a seismic event. Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) Conference – Who will be attending:** Kari explained that registration is now closed for the SDAO conference but there is a waiting list if any of the Board Members would like to be put on the list. Jason asked if anyone from the District was registered to attend, Kari is. Jeff would like to be put on the waiting list.
- **CONNECT 2019:** Kari reminded the Board that the conference will be held in Sunriver on April 9 – 11 and that registration is open. She explained that the conference is a training conference for staff and board members, as well as where all of NRCS district conservationists, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), and Network of Watershed Councils have their annual meetings. Kari asked that the Board let her know if they want to attend, adding that there are still rooms at the Sunriver lodge but they are going quick. Kari also mentioned that next week they will be opening the conference to SWCD's across the country. Bill asked if the schedule is out yet, they will have the schedule out by the end of the month hopefully. Discussion held.
- **Legislative session 2019:** Kari informed the Board that the 2019 session is opening up. She received an email from OACD yesterday that she will be forwarding to the Board. The email shows some of the highlights that they are seeing coming down from the Department of Agriculture, and for Natural Resources in general to keep an eye on. The email also details some of the legislative days where there will be opportunities to go down and speak on behalf of SWCD's. Brief discussion held.
- **Fair 2019/Harvest Festival:** Kari explained that planning for the county fair has begun. Kari has been planning with the Granges on what future displays could look like and how they could be easier to manage. They would like to talk with the air conditioning company that usually takes up most of the building to see if they could open up the center of the building and have scheduled talks throughout the fair, and give people a reason to walk into the building. Kari added that she would like the Board to volunteer again. Brief discussion held. Debra would like to be a part of the discussion meetings with the granges. Kari explained that the Harvest Festival was an idea that came from the meetings, adding that the District has the potential to give other groups the ability to plan this and make it great due to the Agreement with the Fairgrounds, from the Ag Building, that the District is able to

use any building on the grounds 1x/year over the next 20 years. Kari said the festival would most likely be in September, with local small farmers, music, local food, etc. but it is in the planning phase with nothing set in stone yet. She will be providing more information to the Board when it is time for approval to move forward.

- **Future Board Work Sessions:** The Strategic Action Plan for the CSWCD still has two years, though most of what was written in the plan has already been completed. Kari stated the Plan needs to be revisited and the goals reviewed again for what they would like to see the District do over the next 5 years. She explained there will be policy creations and rewrites this year, and believes the business meetings should stay business and the work sessions can be separate, since they will take some time, but will be very necessary this year. Discussion held.
- **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD):** Kari explained that she sits on the governance committee for OACD who, with membership approval, would like to change their 501c(7) status to a 501c(6) or 501c(3). Discussion held. Kari added that the governance committee has begun rewriting the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, in hopes of making them more consistent and nonconflicting. She added that the Final Draft will be presented to the OACD Board at the meeting on January 24th and then presented to the membership at the OACD Annual Meeting at the CONNECT conference. Kari explained that she is also on the services committee. They are currently working on a survey that will go out to Board members, managers, and staff, asking about the services that are provided by OACD, how well they are working, and what services people would like to have added or removed. The survey should be going out at the end of February. Randy added that the upcoming OACD Board meeting will be at the Troutdale public library on the 24th. Discussion held.

[REPORTS \(Cont.\)](#)

BOARD

-Jason thanked the Board for the opportunity to be chair.

STAFF

Kari provided a manager's report handout. She stated most of the information had already been discussed. Yesterday SDAO came in to go over their new Risk Management online system. They also walked through the District's annual evaluation.

Crystalyn will be getting together with the contractor in the coming weeks to finalize the plan for the Rainier Fox Creek Riparian project. Kari added that Friends of Fox Creek and the LCRWC will be kept abreast of the progress. The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) contacted the District with interest in leading the planting on Fox Creek with the grade schoolers in Rainier. Brief discussion held.

Kari mentioned that the FFA Alumni Association is being started, their Charter Meeting will be tomorrow evening in Rainier. Kari explained the association and what is expected, adding that there will also be an advisory committee meeting on January 29th that they are needing more members for.

Kari asked that the Board sign the mileage form to opt in/out for mileage reimbursement.

Jason asked if the Audit needs to be accepted by the Board. Kari said that it has already been submitted.

Eagle/Ellis moved to adjourn meeting
MEETING ADJOURNED 8:43 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant

Approved 02.20.19