



**Minutes of the
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors
Meeting September 15, 2021**

Directors Present:

Jason Busch, Chair
Dave Freytag, Director
Debra Brimacombe, Vice Chair
Bill Eagle, Secretary
Sonia Reagan, Director (via Zoom)

SWCD Staff:

Nathan Herr, District Manager
Jennifer Chavez, Outreach Coordinator
Crystalyn Bush, Resource Conservationist
Selene Keeney, Senior Resource
Conservationist

Directors Absent:

Jeff VanNatta, Treasurer

**Lower Columbia River Watershed Council
(LCRWC):**

Allan Whiting, Council Coordinator

Associate Director:

Michael Calhoun (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING: 4:02 PM

**Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to approve the Minutes from 07-21-21.
Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

• **LCRWC**

Allan introduced himself to the Board. He explained that the council is working on projects through funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). He provided a brief update, explaining each project and that some have construction contracts that will be provided to the board later in the meeting. Brief discussion was held. Michael asked when the council meets, they meet every second Tuesday of the month.

• **UNWC**

Michael explained that the council's next meeting is scheduled for September 30th. He also mentioned that Vernonia was recently at a level 4 water curtailment, but have moved back to a level 3. Brief discussion held.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Reviews/COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment):** Nathan mentioned that Deb sat in on the staff reviews this year. He added that he is recommending a step increase for all employees. The COLA request presented to the board is for 3% as listed in the SWCD's budget. Brief discussion held.

Motion Eagle/ Brimacombe to approve a 3% COLA increase and Nathan's recommendations for step increases for employees. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

- **Contracts:** The Board received copies of five contracts.
 - Portland General Electric (PGE) License Agreement
 - License and Indemnity Agreement with Columbia County
 - Intergovernmental Agreement Exhibit B Letter of Agreement with Clatskanie PUD
 - Professional Services Contract with Aquatic Contracting for the Carcus Creek Project (managed by LCRWC). Contract amount: Not to exceed \$15,000
 - Professional Services Contract with Waterways Consulting Inc. for the Conyers Creek Project (managed by LCRWC). Contract amount: \$36,890.40
 Discussion was held.

Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve the contracts as presented. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

REPORTS (cont.)

STAFF

Nathan informed the Board that the district has found a new auditor, as discussed at the last Board meeting. Brief discussion held. Nathan also mentioned that the County Commissioners have invited the district to sit in on the community water needs forum regarding groundwater study in South County. Brief discussion held.

BOARD

- Deb informed the Board that Dalton Lake is now working on 60% designs. Brief discussion held.
- Jason saw a cougar for the first time near his property. Discussion held.
- No other Board reports.

Eagle/Brimacombe moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 5:21 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: *Jennifer Chavez*
Jennifer Chavez, Outreach Coordinator