

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REPORTS**NRCS/Don:**

Don stated that there has been a lot going on for NRCS and that he is currently trying to figure out what direction to go in Columbia County. He mentioned he has done some outreach in the Nehalem Valley flood plains and received a good amount of responses. He believes there is potential to build a strategy to help them for the next 3-4 years.

Don also discussed the Small Market Meeting that was held today. He said that there were about 30 people with small gardens that work with farm markets. Don would like to build a program for them. Don also mentioned that he would like to try to keep the forestry program alive, stating he may try small livestock operations. He also informed the Board that he will be holding another small market meeting in March, during the evening in hopes more land owners will join. He discussed trying to get landowners to work together with their neighbors, possibly sharing equipment, growing different crops, etc. Don would like to try and get the SWCD and OSU Extension to join in to improve agriculture in the county.

Don reviewed the current programs he currently has and discussed the hiring freeze that is affecting NRCS. Once the freeze is over Don is optimistic for the programs to succeed.

SBWC

Lona still currently volunteering at the SBWC's nursery, stating she is only doing indoor work, such as planting seeds.

LCRWC

KC stated that Selene is currently working as the temporary Coordinator for LCRWC. Discussion was held. Kari mentioned that since Selene used to reside in the county she is comfortable and familiar with a lot of landowners.

OLD BUSINESS

- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection):** Kari informed the Board that Phase 1 of EWP is now complete and that there is one more funding request to pay for the Aulbach site. Phase 2 of EWP will begin in May. Permitting has been completed to finish Fox Creek and the Wallace-Philips property. Monica Blanchard will be at next month's Board meeting and will give a presentation regarding EWP and the Nehalem. Kari also mentioned that the 40' culvert that was placed on the Tallman's property, near Wallace-Philips, looks great. Carcus Creek will be worked on after May also.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Policy Committee Updates:** Bill mentioned that he had received a call from Lona regarding the Policy Committee Updates, she doesn't believe that the updates are completed. Bill would like to have another Policy Committee Meeting when Craig is back in town.
- **Budget Committee/Calendar:** Kari asked if the Board would like to make any changes to the Budget Calendar or if they would like to approve it. Dave stated that he will not be in town for the Budget Committee Meeting on April 27. The Board reviewed the Committee Members and Calendar, Kay C mentioned he will speak with Marvin to ensure he will be able to attend April's meeting.

Motion: Pierce/Freytag to approve 2017-2018 Budget Calendar. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Motion: Freytag/Pierce to appoint Kari as the Budget Officer. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

- **Connect/OACD Conference:** Kari reminded the Board that they are invited to attend Connect this year which will be held in Pendleton in May. Bill doesn't think there will be much offered to directors, Kari believes this is mostly for the OACD Annual Meeting. Kari also mentioned that she will not be sending any staff to Connect this year but that she will be attending. Don also mentioned that he will be attending. Dave stated that he will not be able to attend; Bill might go and Lona doesn't believe she will be going.
- **Work Plan 2017-2019:** Kari wanted to provide the Board with an update on the Work Plan. She is still working on the plan and hopes to go over it with staff in about two weeks. She will then email the plan to the Board, expect to see first draft in about three weeks.
- **New Cooperators:**
Paul Seamons, Deer Island 44 acres

Motion: VanNatta/Pierce to approve New Coordinators. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**

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

BOARD

Kay C. mentioned that he took Randy to see the Clatskanie Culverts. They went to the first culvert on Shaffer Rd. where the water was high. Kay C. stated that there was an eagle there watching them. They went to a second culvert and there were 3 eagles there that they saw. Kay C mentioned that he sees eagles on his property regularly, watching the fish below his bridge, but said that it seems like the eagle population is picking up in the area.

STAFF

Kari discussed the Clatskanie projects that would begin in July. She mentioned that Technical Assistance Grants have been submitted for the Nehalem and Rock Creek project to begin in April but was approached today by NOAH who would like to help financially assist with summer projects. Discussion was held on possible project areas for the summer.

Kari mentioned that the St. Helens High School's Natural Resources teacher is back from leave and is working with the SWCD for Envirothon. Discussion was held.

Kari also mentioned that she has found about 80 different grants and great opportunities. She stated that she found two today that could potentially pay for the majority of the county over 4-5 years for study.

Kari also reminded the Board of the Friends of Fox Creek Meeting that will be held tomorrow in Rainier and that she will be giving a presentation.

Pierce/VanNatta moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant