

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- **New Hires:** Introductions were made. Two new staff with Columbia SWCD and one new hire with NRCS. Discussion was also held with excitement for hiring an all-county engineer.
- **Fox Creek:** Kari stated that the Fox Creek sinkhole temporary project could have funding to do the full temporary fix. We have the potential to work with business owners and have the opportunity to work with the property owners with a hazard mitigation project. This will be discussed once the immediate dangers to property and city services (sewer, stormwater system and waterline) and fish passage issues are stabilized. SWCD has been discussing with NRCS the storm water system and its relation to the sewer main and the protection of nearby businesses. They will be touring the projects next week to do damage reports for the EWP program and to determine eligibility. If funding is approved the plan is to replace 500-700 ft of culvert in roughly 20' over from the current failed culvert location while working on a new design over the next few years with the many partners that will be involved in the full daylighting of the project. Discussed possibly hiring an engineer to help with the re-design. Kari mentioned there is a very old home in the area that needs to be removed. We have talked with the property owner about it and will be discussing with FEMA & OWEB for acquisition funding. There have been suggestions from the city of turning the old home into a museum, if it were moved.

Kari discussed her meeting with Senator Jeff Merkley. He wanted to recognize Kari and the SWCD's community involvement and hard work. Senator Betsy Johnson was also present and toured the Rainier Sinkhole with Senator Merkley, the Mayor of Rainier, and others.

The question was asked what is the issue with the culvert. The culvert is now collapsing and plugged. There is no fish passage, there are several additional sinkholes underground starting. The danger of additional collapse and further flooding is imminent if this culvert is not replaced and ultimately daylighted.

Kari mentioned if the park is created it would be nice to dedicate it to Darrel Whipple who has spent 25+ years working on Fox Creek for education, restoration, and general community recreation.

It was asked what the estimated time frame for the daylighting may be, Kari said probably between 4-6 years. Randy asked if there is enough money to hire an engineer to help design, Kari stated yes, there is and that the SWCD will be meeting with the city and firms to discuss. NRCS and FEMA to help pay with for the temporary new culvert installation

Randy suggested to look further up Fox Creek stating it should be cleaned up so mud doesn't clog over our work. He also mentioned there should be a forestry watershed in Rainier. There was also a suggestion for a forest plan to be written. Kari stated we are working with the city and build trust before addressing additional issues.

- **Board Training:** Eric with ODA held a power point presentation regarding Public Meeting Laws. New fact sheets were given to the board and new SWCD staff. OACD and the Watershed council are not government and their boards are not public officials so they do not have to follow these guidelines.

- **RCPP:** (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) briefly discussed
Kari is working with NRCS on the Agreement. Once drafted it needs to be approved at the NRCS National office.
- **Audit:** Reviewed Audit. Per Randy's request last meeting, acceptance pending until this month. Bill asked if there were any discrepancies, no. **Motion:** Bergman/ VanNatta to accept audit. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Loan Refinance:** Kari read the financial resolution for the loan refinance and a discussion was held. Randy asked if we would be charged to refinance, Kari stated we would be charged around \$5, 000 – \$10,000 to refinance. **Motion:** VanNatta/Ellis to refinance. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.** Signed off by Eagle/Pierce.

NEW BUSINESS

- **OACD Communications:** Randy discussed that the OACD would like to try holding teleconferences. He believes it will be difficult to keep people interested in phone conferences. Lona stated she likes OACD conferences, thinks they are very informative but that they maybe should take some training classes of their own. KC does not like the meetings or how they are held and that the cost is not good. He believes Skype would be a lot better. Bill thinks OACD needs to figure out how to bring more people in like they used to. Craig asked if the OACD is worth the time, effort and money as it seems like there is mostly negative feedback. Bill believes we should bring the spark back to the community's interest.
- **NRCS Office Space:** Don informed the Board that the working agreement for the office space at the USDA Service Center is up. This agreement currently includes the front desk staff and 2 other SWCD staff members. This "agreement" is separate than the lease for the building.
- **Work Plan:** Kari stated she is still currently working on the work plan and will provide soon.

Board evaluation and Kari's mid- Year review Lona stated that It is getting late and we still have reports to go through. **Motion:** Pierce/Ellis to adjust the agenda due to time. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

REPORTS

BOARD

Craig mentioned he would like to move the board meetings to an earlier time. Discussion was held on adjusting the time. Lona stated she would like at least 30 minutes earlier, Craig stated he was thinking earlier in the afternoon, such as 1 PM. KC mentioned that some members have animals that need fed in the afternoon/evening but that possibly 4:30 PM would be a good time. Randy stated
Approved 04.20.16

the LCRWC meetings are at 7 PM and he is usually arriving just on time or right after. He stated he likes where the meeting time is currently (at 7:30 PM) and does not want to change the time.

Motion: Ellis/Pierce to move Regular Board Meetings to 7 PM. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

KC mentioned the high water during the heavy rainfall in December. He asked what is slowing the creek water pressure with the amount of rainfall we have had. Tyler stated there were logs placed to prevent issues. A hydrograph was also installed and he just needs to download the app to gather further information. KC stated there has been more rainfall since the flood of '96 and discussion was had about the difference from then vs. now. Randy stated these rare incidents are being a lot more common.

KARI

Discussed highlights and mentioned she is still working on the budget, which should be emailed by April 20. She plans to have the work plan completed then as well. First round of interviews were held at the beginning of the week for the restoration ecologist with the Estuary Partnership. They received about 46 applications and interviewed 9 people, should have someone hired by May 1st. Kari also mentioned that the district and LCRWC had applied the SWCD for the State Land Board for the Batwater project- and we won the wetland award! There will be an award ceremony held in Salem on April 12; the reception will begin at 9:30 AM with the reward ceremony to follow.

TYLER

Has been working with the NRCS, FEMA and EWP around the Scappoose/ Vernonia area after heavy rainfall damages. Specifically working to help an elderly woman near North Scappoose Creek with a huge landslide behind her house. Tyler stated she needs most help financially, EWP is a possibility to help her out. He is still currently spending most of his time planting and working on Floodplain and Fox Creek.

SBWC

There will be a Native Plant Sale held on April 9th at the Scappoose Watershed. Lonny also stated he will be meeting with FEMA to discuss the road damages and new landslides near Dutch Canyon. Lonny believes there is about \$2 million in damages needing repaired.

VanNatta/Pierce moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:50PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant