

35285 Millard Road St. Helens, OR 97051

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Minutes of the Columbia SWCD Board of Directors Meeting June 16, 2021

Directors Present:

Jason Busch, Chair Jeff VanNatta, Treasurer Debra Brimacombe, Vice Chair Bill Eagle, Secretary Sonia Reagan, Director (via Zoom)

Directors Absent:

Dave Freytag, Director

Associate Directors Present:

Michael Calhoun (via Zoom)

SWCD Staff:

Nathan Herr, District Manager Jennifer Chavez, Outreach Coordinator Crystalyn Bush, Resource Conservationist Amber Kester, Riparian Specialist

NRCS:

Hannah Isaacs, District Conservationist

Deb called the budget hearing to order at 4:04 PM

-Jeff informed the board that he was approached by the fair board to see if the District would be willing to finance new gutters for the ag building at the fairgrounds. Bill explained that there is covid relief funding available to fair boards and would like to ensure the fair applies. Discussion was held. Nathan will contact the fair board to discuss the matter and bring the details back to the District board for further discussion.

- -Jason arrived 4:12 pm.
- -Nathan mentioned that he recently found three maps with different zoning perimeters for Columbia County. He emailed the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to clarify which map is considered accurate. He has not yet received a response, but recommends that no changes be made to the current At-Large positions that qualify for a zone. Brief discussion was held.
- -Nathan also explained that he had a meeting with the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership on Monday to discuss the partnership with the District.
- -There was no public comment.
- -Amber and Crystalyn arrived.

Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve to close the budget hearing at 4:31 PM and move into the regular board meeting. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Eagle/VanNatta to approve the Minutes from 05-19-21. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Financial Report: Motion Brimacombe/ Eagle to accept financial Report from 05-31-21. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**.

<u>Bills to Pay</u>: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve to pay the bills. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

				Expenditure Splits	
Ck#	Payee	Memo	Amount	CSWCD	GRANT
2710	Pershing LLC	Retirement	\$2,177.88	\$2,177.88	\$0.00
2711	Jennifer Heidrich	Janitorial Services	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
2712	Lower Col. Engineering	Water Quality Monitoring	\$17,381.08	\$17,381.08	\$0.00
2713	US Bank Visa	Visa Charges 5/3/21 – 5/28/21	\$2,931.95	\$2,931.95	\$0.00
		SUBTOTALS >>>>>	\$23,090.91	\$23,090.91	\$0.00
TOTAL REQUESTS >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>					\$23,090.91

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Services)

Hannah explained that the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between NRCS, Columbia SWCD, and the Oregon Department o Agriculture is due for reapproval. No changes have been made since the last MOA.

Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve the memorandum of agreement between NRCS, CSWCD, and ODA. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Hannah also mentioned that NRCS recently released a new Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to help with emergencies tied to drought. The signups are open state-wide through July 12th, 2021. Brief discussion was held.

• <u>UNWC (Upper Nehalem Watershed Council)</u>

Michael explained that the watershed council's annual meeting will be held on June 24th at the Vernonia grange, with guest speaker Aaron Groth, OSU extension's Regional Fire Specialist. Michael also explained potential upcoming projects for the council.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Project Updates:** Amber provided a brief update on three active small grants she is currently working on. The next application round will be next month, and she plans to submit applications for at least three potential small grant projects. Brief discussion held. Crystalyn explained that the Perkins Creek project has been rescheduled to begin next year. She also mentioned that she has been working more closely with the Scappoose Bay and Lower Columbia River Watershed Councils. Crystalyn is also performing many site visits with Amber, as well as setting Emerald Ash Borer traps again this year. Crystalyn explained that the District also plans to perform environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling through the forestry service to test pacific lamprey. Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Adopt Budget for 2021/22 Fiscal Year:** Jason received Resolution No. 20/21-001 for the total appropriation of \$2,251,835.00.

Motion Eagle/VanNatta approve resolution no. 2021-001. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

• Work Plan 2021-2022: A copy of the Work Plan was provided to the Board. Brief discussion was held.

Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve the work plan as written. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

• **ODA Watershed Technical Specialist (WTS) Grant:** The Board received a copy of the CSWCD's Scope of Work (SOW) for the ODA WTS grant and reviewed.

Motion VanNatta/Brimacombe approve the ODA 2021-2023 SOW as presented. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

• **Contracts:** The Board received copies of the Carr Slough Phase 1 - Prescott Beach contract and the construction contract for the Clatskanie PUD project. Discussion was held. Jeff explained his concerns with the construction on the Clatskanie PUD project.

Motion Eagle/Brimacombe approve the Carr Slough Phase 1 – Prescott Beach contract for \$47,026.00. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Motion Eagle/VanNatta approve the Clatskanie PUD construction contract for \$598,328.00. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

REPORTS (cont.) BOARD

- -Michael asked if the CSWCD was involved in a project in Hawkins Park in Vernonia. Nathan explained that the District is not, but that the watershed council might be. Michael also mentioned that there is a lot of ivy taking over the trees near the bridge in downtown Vernonia. Brief discussion held. Nathan will connect Michael and Crystalyn for assistance with removal. Michael also asked about the county zones, as he is interested in joining the Board. Nathan explained that he is waiting to hear back from ODA for clarification.
- -Jeff is working on making rootwads for the Clatskanie PUD project. He also mentioned that he is still waiting to receive the pyroweeder but has a power harrow that he also plans to have a demonstration for at the Fair. Brief discussion held.
- -Sonia mentioned that she would like to volunteer at the Fair if the District has a booth.
- -Deb mentioned that volunteers recently removed ivy around Dalton Lake with funding through the City of St. Helens. She asked if the District has considered hosting a class regarding proper ivy removal. Discussion was held.
- -No other Board reports.

STAFF

Nathan informed the Board that the Policy Committee met last week to begin updating the Personnel Policy. He added that he also attended a risk assessment webinar which should be beneficial when going through the Special District's Association of Oregon (SDAO)'s tech policy that was presented at last month's meeting.

He also included that a technician will be in tomorrow to fix the air conditioning upstairs in the office. Nathan also mentioned that the State's COVID-19 restrictions have the possibility of being lifted at the end of this month, though the District will continue to follow the CDC recommendations/guidelines. Brief discussion held.

Eagle/VanNatta moved to adjourn meeting MEETING ADJOURNED 5:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: **Jennifer Chavez Jennifer Chavez Jennifer Chavez**