

finding people in the community who may be interested in preventing Portland's Dredge sediments from filling the lagoon. Discussion was held.

REPORTS

NRCS/Don:

Don informed the Board that the EQIP Sign-ups will be closing on May 19. Lona asked how people are informed of EQIP and how they hear about the programs. Don explained that he sent out 50 letters to landowners and Small Market Garden Operators but claimed that people mostly hear from word of mouth. Discussion was held regarding EQIP programs.

Don also discussed the Engineering position that has been open and his hopes that the position will be filled soon. He also mentioned that Angie has been in Astoria and could be leaving at anytime. He doesn't believe that they will get another Soil Conservationist until the hiring freeze is over.

Don reminded the Board that their building lease with the SWCD will be up in May. He stated that the office is growing and that there isn't a whole lot of room left.

Chloe and Hannah from St. Helens High School arrived at 7:25 PM

SBWC

Lona mentioned that the Watershed Council will be having their Native Plant sale on April 15 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

LCRWC

KC stated that Selene was Nominated as the Council Coordinator last night at their Board Meeting. KC said she looks ready for the position and that she is creating logos and a website. Bill asked if she is getting any contacts, Kari said that Selene is beginning to, she is from this community and knows many people already, but is taking steps to expand her connection and understanding of the community surrounding natural resources.

Randy gave everyone a handout with his report. His report mentioned high bird activity, especially Eagles and also mentioned spotting sea lions in the Clatskanie River. Randy went on to explain that he would like to continue monitoring and giving LCRWC Reports, especially for North County.

OLD BUSINESS

- **EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection):** Kari informed the Board that everything is currently on hold and that EWP will start back up around May/June when they get back to the Wallace-Phillips project. Monica stated that Selene was able to get the District in touch with Tapani Inc, out of Washington. She stated that they do huge construction projects and that the staff member she met with claimed the culvert replacement for Fox Creek "looks fun". Monica mentioned that they will be evaluating strategies and meeting tomorrow. The District is hopeful for a reduced cost, which will depend on design changes. Discussion was held regarding day-lighting the area. Monica stated that options will be discussed tomorrow when they meet with Tapani on site.
Monica informed the Board that the Wallace-Phillips property continued to erode this winter so the District plans on adding more boulders and wood.
- **Phone System:** Kari stated that NRCS did fix the major issues that the District was facing with the phone system. However, people are still having a lot of trouble getting through to speak to someone in the office. The St. Helens Computer Center has given the District a proposal. Kari gave the Board a copy and reviewed the proposal. She mentioned that the District would obtain a new phone number but that it will be listed in the phone book and will be more easily accessible to the public.

Motion: Pierce/ VanNatta to approve new phone system. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

- **Work Plan 2017-2019:** Kari provided a copy of the Work Plan to the Board and Meeting attendees to review. Lona asked if the plan went through 2019, Kari explained the work plan reflects the fiscal year of July 2017-June 2018. Randy mentioned that he feels like the fish issues have not been getting better. Discussion held.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Legal Counsel:** Kari proposed that the District should have legal counsel now that there are larger amounts of money coming through. She stated that she would like a lawyer to help review and create contracts. Discussion was held. Write up SOW and RFQQ to select an attorney.

Motion: Pierce/Bergman to seek legal counsel. **Approved Motion Passed by unanimous vote**

- **New Cooperators:**

Christopher Ponti, St. Helens, 40 acres

Ron Davidson, Warren, 5.4 acres

Motion: Bergman/VanNatta to approve New Cooperators. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**

- **Coastal Coho & Nehalem Projects:** Monica explained that she has been working with Partners since October to create a Strategic Work Plan for the Nehalem area. She is hopeful that this will bring money to the watershed. Randy asked how many Coho there is in the Nehalem. Monica stated that there had been snorkel surveys around 2009-2011 and that ODFW had surveyed the area as well. She stated that depending on funding she would like more surveys to be done. Randy also asked who would be monitoring the fish metrics. Monica stated that they are working on finalizing the details. Randy also asked about Cutthroat Trout, stating that Coho are the only fish that are focused on anymore. Monica explained that the Grants submitted are for Coho specifically. Discussion was held.

REPORTS (Cont.)

BOARD

Lona discussed that a new issue of the biannual *History of Columbia County* came out. She mentioned that the Vernonia Museum has copies of old diaries from Virgil Powell that she stated are really interesting and highly recommends viewing.

Lona also mentioned that she spoke with a landowner on Old Portland Road regarding their soil and well water. Discussion was held.

KC told the Board a story about a farmer and his wife who caught a fish with her pitchfork.

Randy provided a handout with a newspaper article and drawing of a fish tail he saw an Eagle eating. He was curious if anyone knew what kind of fish it might have been. Discussion held.

STAFF

Kari informed the Board that she was asked to sit in on the Strategic Action Committee Meeting which begins next month. She also stated that she would like to attend Clatsop SWCD's next Board Meeting. She mentioned that they would like help writing grants and some technical assistance field visits and she hopes to get an agreement to co-work while they're learning.

Pierce/VanNatta moved to adjourn meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennifer Steinke

Jennifer Steinke, Office Assistant

Approved 04.19.17