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Minutes of the **Columbia SWCD Board of Directors** Meeting March 16, 2022

Directors Present: SWCD Staff:

Jason Busch, Chair Nathan Herr, District Manager Debra Brimacombe, Vice Chair Malyssa Legg, Financial Manager Jeff VanNatta, Treasurer Selene Keeney, Sr. Resource Conservationist

Bill Eagle, Secretary

Sonia Reagan, Director (via Zoom)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Directors Absent: (NRCS):

Dave Freytag Hannah Isaacs, District Conservationist

Associate Director: Public:

> Claudia Eagle Lilli Shriver, LCE

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

Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to approve the Minutes from 03-16-22. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to accept financial Report from 02-28-22. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Bills to Pay: Motion VanNatta/Reagan approve to pay the bills. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote

BILLS TO PAY (US Bank) March									
					Expenditure Splits				
Ck#	Payee	Memo	Amount	CSWCD	GRANT				
2789	Lower Col. Engineering	Conyers Creek Project	\$1,306.25	\$0.00	\$1,306.25				
2790	Pershing LLC	Retirement Payment	\$2,320.26	\$2,320.26	\$0.00				
2791	Deer Island Nursery	Plants for projects	\$1,322.00	\$0.00	\$1,322.00				
2792	Umpqua Valley Financial	Annual Audit FY 2020/21	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00				
2793	US Bank Visa	Charges 02/02/22 - 03/02/22	\$4,695.47	\$4,695.47	\$0.00				

2794	Vernonia Voice	Budget meeting notice	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$0.00
2795	Waterway Consulting	Project engineering	\$15,360.00	\$0.00	\$15,360.00
2796	Jennifer Heidrich	Cleaning services February	\$480.00	\$480.00	\$0.00
	Rainier Chamber of				
2797	Commerce	Annual Dues	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
TOTAL REQUESTS >>>>>>>>>>>>>					

Public Comment

No comment

REPORTS

NRCS

Hannah presented to the board new updates from NRCS. The USDA mask mandate has been lifted, and NRCS is expecting employees to be back in the office ASAP. The plan is fluid but the goal is to have NRCS full time back in the office by April and a ramp up leading towards that. Stacy's position, Soil Conservationist focusing on small operations, is going to be announced soon. Hannah also mentioned working with the SWCD on looking into deeper partnerships with the water quality monitoring program. Discussion held.

OLD BUSINESS

- RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program): Nathan made a correction to what he said last month. The letter that was sent to the SWCD in February was the notification that the amendment was complete. Carr Slough is now added to the RCPP program and will get done this summer with these funds.
- **Audit:** There was an issue earlier in the month with the State receiving our audit. As of today, it has been resolved and the audit has been received by the State. Discussion held.
- **Budget Meeting:** Nathan reminded the board of the March 31st Budget Committee Meeting at 5. Discussion was held about the budget committee member and recruitment.
- **Carr Slough Phase 2:** Nathan and Selene gave the board an update on easement potentials. Looking to either use an OWEB acquisition grant to acquire Carr Slough, or possibly buying it outright. Discussion held. Bill sees benefits in the SWCD purchasing the property outright. Jason asked if there was a benefit to the county with the SWCD purchasing the property. Selene discussed the education and environmental benefits of acquiring and restoring the property. Discussion held. Jeff would like to make sure if we are going to do this, that we do it right so we won't be adversely affecting the fish short or long term. Nathan said that any kind of acquisition is going to have to be done with lawyers/experts that can help us put together a long-term plan. It is going to be a long process. Discussion held. Nathan would like to know if the Board is wanting to continue to discuss acquisition and work with an appraiser to get a yellow book appraisal for the property. Motion **Eagle/VanNatta** Authorize soliciting an appraiser to investigate Carr Slough. **Motion** Withdrawn. Motion VanNatta/Eagle Approve the SWCD contract with Real Estate Services Group Inc. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.** The Board is in favor of using this appraiser to find out the cost of the purchase of the property, not in favor of purchasing the property without having an appraisal complete.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Credit Card:** Nathan talked about changing credit cards like previously discussed in past meetings. Per policy, if we are wanting to open a new card and cancel the old, we need a motion from the board. Discussion held. **Motion VanNatta/Eagle** Open an Amazon credit account and close US Bank card. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Contracts/Cooperators:** Board received copies of one contract and two cooperators:
 - Professional Service Contract for Construction Services with Aquatic Contracting for the Carcus Creek Project. Discussion held VanNatta/Eagle Approve Contracts as presented. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote
 - o Dana Hestekin, 13 acres in Deer Island
 - Mark Harrison, 37 acres Eagle/Reagan Approve new Cooperators Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS (cont.)

BOARD

Deb would like to make sure we get the process for an annual review to take place for the District Manager. Discussion held. Bill is the head of the Personnel Committee and will move forward getting that together. Master Gardeners is holding their Spring Fair (an edible plant sale) April 30 from 9-3 at the Fairgrounds Pavilion. Deb would also like to see the volunteer committee restarted. Discussion held. Nathan will get a meeting on the calendar. Jason talked about the Nehalem Valley environmental changes he has seen this year while farming.

Eagle/ Reagan moved to adjourn meeting MEETING ADJOURNED 5:43

Respectfully Submitted by: **Nathan Herr, District Manager**