



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

February 15, 2017
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting Minutes

Directors

Allan Campbell – Chair
Don Hamann – Director
Ron Hillers – Director – Treasurer/Secretary
Barbara Niedermeyer – Vice Chair
Marilyn Rice – Director
Juanita Wright – Director – Arrived 4:08pm
Stan Dean – Director -

Staff & Guests

Randy White – District Manager
Markie Germer – Administrative Secretary
Jen Sawtell – Education & Outreach Coordinator
Kora Mousseaux – Urban Planner
Erin Kurtz – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Colleen Roberts – Jackson County Commissioner

Board Chair Campbell opened the Board meeting at 4:00 pm.

OATH OF OFFICE

At the January Board Meeting Directors, Haman, Hillers, Niedermeyer, and Rice were sworn in as newly elected Directors of JSWCD. Tonight, Stan Dean and Juanita Wright took the oath of office and signed the oath document.

AGENDA

District Manager White asked for several changes to the Agenda; In Old Business under Land Use Plan there should be a decision instead of informational. Under New Business, he requested a decision on the 2017-2018 Budget Calendar and the Board needs to appoint a Budget Officer for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Budget. Under New Business the topic of Employee Retirement has a resolution that requires a decision and will be presented by the Personnel Committee. Also, the Personnel Committee will present the Amendment to Resolution 07-04/02 Retirement Benefits. The Board concurred.

MINUTES

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Wright to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2017 Board Meeting passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORTS

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Hamann to accept the February Treasurer Reports as presented passed unanimously.

STAFF SUCCESS STORIES

Jen handed out the March 3rd Annual Dinner invitations to the Board Members and briefly told about the plans for the event. Kora told about the Seminar she attended in Portland on Urban Conservation. This was a good networking opportunity and she learned about several projects relating to Urban Conservation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

There was a discussion about whether to keep the action items in the Plan. Action items that are completed and action items that still need to be completed were designated with “Done” and “On Hold”. The ‘On Hold’ action items will not necessarily be completed this year and will be kept in the plan as “future”. The Board felt that the completed actions do not need to be kept in the Plan. The “Note to Reviewers” and the “Action Items” were not intended to be part of the Plan – they were meant to be a guide for making updates. Director Rice handed in her written notes regarding reformatting the Plan. Director Dean had a handout with his thoughts and ideas regarding “Participation in Setting Local, Regional, and Statewide Direction” on page 16. To clear some of the grey areas on lobbying and advocating for both Directors and staff, Eric Nusbaum from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has agreed to come to the March Board Meeting to educate both Board and employees. After this workshop, the Board should create a District policy on lobbying and advocating. It was decided to have a section for developing a policy and outline the procedure in the strategic plan. Director Dean suggested that if the Board is satisfied with the body of the Strategic Plan, the District Manager and staff should work on formatting, sentence structure, and any grammar necessary. The target date for completion is the April Board Meeting. The Board concurred.

LAND USE PLAN

District Manager White is now working on a Land Use Plan. This should be included in the five year plan. Charlie Boyer has agreed to help with the District’s Land Use Plan on a contract basis. There is also an organization that helps municipalities with Land Use Plans for a small fee. If needed, the District could look into this option. The development of a Land Use Plan could take up to a year or two. Also, the Board should actively review District Policies and perhaps select a few policies each month to eliminate obsolete policies and update them as necessary. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward as stated above.

RAINWATER HARVEST

Director Dean wanted to put this topic on the District’s radar for future discussion. Jackson County does not have any ordinance, regulations, or criteria for Rain Water Harvesting. Some cities have rain water harvest guidelines. This has created confusion for landowners wanting to harvest rainwater. Director Dean’s intent is to have a discussion on whether the Board should take a position on encouraging a county to develop rain harvest ordinances. Director Niedermeyer stated the first step is to see if the County is willing and ready to develop rainwater harvesting ordinances and regulations. The Board was reminded that the District is not regulatory. **A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Rice to table this discussion for a later date passed unanimously.**

Staff was dismissed at 5pm and Mrs. Roberts thanked the Board and also left the meeting.

ILLEGAL USE OF IRRIGATION WATER

The topic is another item that Director Dean will like to discuss with the Board at a future time.

RESOLUTION – 17-02/85 RETIREMENT PLAN – OREGON SAVINGS GROWTH PLAN

This resolution is to adopt the state of Oregon's Deferred Compensation Investment Program that would take the place of the Lord Abbett retirement plan.

A motion by Director Rice with a second by Director Wright to approve Resolution 17-02/85 Retirement Plan – Oregon Savings Growth Plan as presented passed unanimously.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS RESOLUTION 07-04/02 (AMENDED FEBRUARY 15, 2017)

This resolution directs the District to automatically contribute 3% of the employee's gross wages regardless whether the employee contributes to the retirement plan.

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Rice to approve the amended resolution 07-04/02 Retirement Benefits as presented passed unanimously.

2017-2018 BUDGET CALENDAR

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Wright to approve the 2017-2018 Budget Calendar as presented passed unanimously.

2017-2018 BUDGET OFFICER

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Wright to appoint District Manager White as the 2017-2018 Budget Officer passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S BRIEFING

District Manager White will be attending the Farm and Ranch Succession Presentation and Workshop on March 24 in Bandon. Those who plan to attend should contact Markie. The District vehicle has been reserved for this event.

NRCS

Erin reported on the NRCS programs they offer. Applications are due Friday, February 17, 2017. They extended the local application deadline to May for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and the Ashland Forest All-Land Restoration Project as well as their organic and high tunnel programs due to more funds available. Erin attended the Organic Farming Conference in Portland. She has been designated as Oregon's Field Level Organic Champion. Director Dean reported that the SWCC will be down here in August for their quarterly meeting and the AFAR project would be an excellent tour. Erin said the NRCS Basin Team Leader Meeting will also be here in August and perhaps the tour could be coordinated for both groups.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD (OWEB) SMALL GRANTS

Director Niedermeyer had nothing to report at this time.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (SWCC)

Director Dean included a written report from the February 8th SWCC Meeting he attended. Topics included the Legislative session, budget cuts in the Department Agricultural and the Department of Forestry, and the OACD strategic plan. When the SWCC is here in August, Director Dean and Director Hillers would like to have the OSU Land Stewards Program presented at the meeting.

AGENDA BUILD

Employees Clint Nichols and Paul DeMaggio will give their presentation on the Abbie Lane Project at the next JSWCD Board Meeting on March 18, 2017. Also at that meeting, if the Board agrees, Eric Nusbaum from ODA will review the responsibilities of Directors and Employees relating to Lobbying and Advocacy – the Board agreed. Director Niedermeyer would like to know the exact ORS number referenced in Eric’s presentation.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Markie Germer

Markie Germer

Official Minutes approved as printed:

_____ Date _____

Approved as amended:

_____ Date _____