



Board Approved 6/19/2019

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

May 15, 2019

**Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting Minutes**

Directors

Allan Campbell – Chair
Stan Dean
Don Hamann
Ron Hillers – Treasurer/Secretary
Barbara Niedermeyer – Vice Chair
Dave Picanso - Absent
Juanita Wright
Pam Hillers – Associate Director
Gordon Jones – Associate Director

Staff & Guests

Paul DeMaggio - Engineer
Markie Germer – Administrative Specialist
Kora Mousseaux – Urban Planner
Beth Pietrzak – Oregon Department of
Agriculture (ODA)
Jenna Sanford – Natural Resource Technician
Karelia VerEecke – Ed & Outreach Coordinator
Randy White – District Manager
Colleen Roberts – Jackson County Commissioner
Chris Van Ness – Logos Charter School
Tara Baylog- Southern Oregon Research &
Extension Center (SOREC)
Logos Students: Drason Gibson, Levi Pettit,
Trevor Perkins, Trevan Kerby, Josiah Chan,
Chris Anderson, Griffin Smith, Ian Jones &
Noah Hunter

Board Chair Campbell opened the Board meeting at 4:05 pm and introductions were made.

Logos Students gave a presentation about their projects that were financially supported by the District. The students talked about the Stream Water Assessment Team (SWAT) program. The goal was to help gather usable data for the District, Oregon State University (OSU) Extension, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and other environmental organizations. The students volunteered to track hydrozones in the Bear Creek area, mainly where the Penninger Fire burned. They also gathered information on Mount Ashland for assessment of tree trimming to prevent huge wildfires. They worked in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument for lifelong studies to track bio-diversity. They learned to use instruments like range finder, compass, DBH tape, Densitometer, and an increment borer. The students and their advisors thanked the District for their support. Chris Van Ness also thanked the District for the financial support for the Envirothon Program that students from Logos Charter School participated in and won first place in the state wide competition.

Beth Pietrzak, Water Quality Specialist from ODA spoke to the group regarding some of the ODA compliance complaints being dealt with in Jackson County. She also spoke about working more in Klamath County and getting ready to implement a Strategic Implementation Area (SIA's).

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Roberts reported that the counties' jail issue is halted and back on the drawing board. She also reported that the United States Fish and Wildlife has extended the comment period on the matter of de-listing wolves in Oregon.

AGENDA

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Hillers to accept the agenda as presented passed unanimously.

MINUTES

A motion by Director Dean with a second by Director Hillers to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2019 Board Meeting as presented passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORTS

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Neidermeyer to accept the May 2019 Treasurer reports as presented passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Paul reported on the on-going project with Rogue River Valley Irrigation District. Paul also reported on the Equamore manure structure that required building a road to the structure. This project will eliminate manure runoff and is in conjunction with the ODA's SIA.

Karelia reported that there are now 46 enrolled in the day camp and 34 children on the waiting list. Karelia was invited to the Fire Adapted Communities Annual Conference to give a presentation on the District's educational field trips that were held at the Peninger Fire site. There were 50 fire professionals attending from all over the US who also spoke on their events and projects.

Kora spoke about her involvement with the Earth Day and Living on Your Land events. This resulted in five scheduled site visit. She has been taking some training courses.

Jenna reported she is continuing on with the monitoring work. She is processing the 2017-2018 field work and gearing up for this season.

REPORTS - Committees

Equipment Committee Update

District Manager White reported that staff will be taking the new dewdrop drill out for a trial run to make sure it is running correctly before landowners rent it. This piece of equipment can be used with a small tractor or all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and can be used in small areas where there are trees and tight areas, and can be used on slopes. The chipper rental is being reassessed as to whether the District wants to rent them to landowners due to the liability they could cause.

District Funds Committee

District Manager White reported that in March, two District Fund applications were recommended and approved by the committee but not funded due to lack of funds. Since then, the remaining District Funds monies have been reallocated and funds are now available for these applicants. In April the new committee members met and questioned the criteria on how these two applications were ranked and also questioned if the applications were in line with the strategic plan. Due to the fact that the new committee is rethinking the criteria for ranking applications, District Manager White felt it would be unfair to penalize the applicants that had been previously approved and recommended. He made the decision to fund the two applications. The committee will meet on June 6th to discuss how applications will be ranked moving forward.

Legislative Update

Director Dean reported on current Oregon House Bills (HB). Two bills relating to the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program are in the legislative process. One, HB 2729 is for appropriating funds to the OAHP for grants. Director Dean drafted a letter of support for Director Campbell's signature just in case it is needed. The other bill, HB 2020, is on Carbon Reduction. This bill now has an amendment that includes 20% of the funds to go toward programs that support carbon sequestration on working lands.

Staff was excused at 5:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) Grant

District Manager White reported on the OWRD Grant titled *Galls Creek Irrigation Conservation Project*. It is over \$50,000 and will need Board Approval. District Manager White is asking the Board for signatory authority once legal counsel has reviewed and approved the Grant. There are questions regarding the responsibilities of the landowner and the District both listed as grantees, and several corrections as well as District Manager White not listed as the signer for the grant agreement.

A motion by Director Dean with a second by Director Hillers to approve the grant subject to the District Manager resolving the issues covering the District liability, determining who is the grantee, correcting pertinent contact information, and giving the District Manager the authority to execute the document. Director Wright recused herself from voting due to a conflict of interest. The motion passed.

BOARD, STAFF, & RRWC REPORTS

Manager’s Briefing

There was nothing new to report since the Manager’s Update that is in the Board Packet.

OWEB

Director Niedermeyer reported that the small grant team is winding down biennial process and working on updating by-laws. Two Rivers SWCD will be joining the small grant team and perhaps an Indian tribe. All grant reports need to be submitted to OWEB before any new funds can be dispersed.

RRWC

Director Dean will not be able to attend next Thursday’s RRWC Board Meeting. District Manager White will attend the meeting.

OACD

Director Dean reported that he has been leading the Advocacy committee. The committee developed the recommendations and presented them at the April meeting. The committee reconvened and have two main items they want to bring forward: one is to formally charter the committee with by-laws that give direction and authority. Then they would like to see the charter used as a model for other committees. Next is to appoint a new Chair. Director Dean might be appointed to that position.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Markie Germer

Markie Germer

Official Minutes approved as printed: Allan Campbell Date 06-25-19

Approved as amended: _____ Date _____