



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

August 21st, 2024
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting

Directors, Associates

In attendance:

Ron Hillers – Director
Stan Dean - Director
Pam Hillers – Associate Director
Maxine Cass – Director
Don Hamann – Director
Frank Baratta – Director
Katelyn Detweiler – Director – Zoom
Barbara Niedermeyer - Director

Guests/Partners

Colleen Roberts – County Commissioner
Blake Elliot
George Williams

Staff in attendance:

Jill Smedstad – Executive Director
Kim Ingram – Office Assistant
Michael Skandalis – Forest Resource Technician
Trevor Morris – Business Manager (Zoom)
Meghan Montgomery – Forest Resource Conservationist
Jenna Sanford – Watershed Monitoring Specialist
Clint Nichols – Riparian Resource Conservationist

Guests in Attendance:

Director Dean called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm followed by introductions and the pledge of allegiance.

August Meeting Minutes

The July meeting minutes will be brought to the September Board Meeting for approval.

Treasurers Report

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Hamann to approve the Treasurers Report passed unanimously. Trevor stated that the treasurers report showed the Districts expenses in the first month of the fiscal year with no unusual or out of the ordinary occurrences to share.

Staff Presentation – Meghan Montgomery

Meghan gave an excellent presentation regarding the current science on forest fuel treatment effectiveness. She shared details on why we should continue to invest in fuels treatments within the Rogue Basin, why they are effective, treatment methods, as well as how it can change the forest structure and composition. There were some great questions and insight from Board members following the presentation.

Partnership Reports:

Rogue River Watershed Council

Director Dean stated that there was not too much to share other than the RRWC continues to do impressive work and is very busy.

Admin Report:

Executive Director Smedstad reported that the metrics and monitoring committee have been working to finalize a draft of the water quality monitoring pilot plan. The Outreach and Engagement Coordinator search was successful, and the District will be welcoming Ellie Zignego on September 11th, 2024. Jenna Sanford's job title has been updated to Watershed Monitoring Specialist from the previous title of Stewardship Monitoring Coordinator. This was done to more accurately reflect her position while retaining work plan and essential duties. Jill also stated that she has been meeting bi-monthly with Brian Barr from RRWC and Sue Parrish from OWRD to discuss regional water availability and planning. Additionally, on Tuesday, 8/20, they hosted a convening of additional agency partners from the region to gauge interest in initiating a locally led planning process to address water quantity issues. The group responded positively to the idea and will begin meeting regularly to chart a course and engage stakeholders.

Antelope Creek River Mile 4.3 Grant Signatory Authority:

Executive Director Smedstad introduced the topic and asked Clint Nichols to give a brief description of the grant. Clint discussed the Drinking Water Providers Partnership funding, approximately \$197k of federal dollars, approved for the Antelope Creek RM 4.3 Riparian Restoration Project. Funding will pay for initial project work while other funding comes on-line. Director Neidermeyer asked some clarifying questions about the budget. **A motion by Director Neidermeyer with a second by Director Hillers to grant the Executive Director signatory authority and approval to enter into agreements associated with the Drinking Water Providers Partnership grant award, receiving up to \$200,000 for the Antelope Creek River Mile 4.3 project passed unanimously.**

Legislative Updates

Director Dean reported that at OACD they are starting to think about the upcoming long legislative session and hearing. One of the things they are looking at is to carry a bill for OACD dealing with a pesticide licensing program. Essentially, it would give ODA funding to increase the bilingual capacity of the licensing program.

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Management Program draft rules came out about a month ago. Director Dean stated that there were some comments and that those will be heard within the next month or so.

Groundwater allocation rulemaking, which would make it more difficult to get groundwater permits, is another popular topic recently. Those rules are going to the water resources commission on September 12th. The meeting is being held in Medford, in person, for those who would like to attend.

OWEB Small Grants

Director Neidermeyer reported that there is an application window opening September 16th through September 30th. There is approximately \$70,000 dollars remaining.

OACD

Director Dean stated that last Thursday and Friday he was up in the Dalles for a two-day strategic planning retreat with the OACD Board. He is confident that there will be some solid direction coming from that meeting.

SWCC

Director Dean is no longer on the SWCC Board. Rob Webb, Board member with IVSWCD is taking Stan's place. Rob is enthusiastic about taking on this role.

Director Niedermeyer asked that Directors review and are aware of the resolutions and policies that are currently in place as some of them may need to be archived or updated.

Agenda Build

Public Meeting Policy and Training

Dispute Resolution Policy Update

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Management Program

Public Input

George Williams, a member of the public, shared that he is impressed with what the District is doing.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____ Business Manager

Minutes approved as printed:

_____ Date _____

Approved as amended:

_____ Date _____