



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
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**MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED**

**November 18, 2020  
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District  
(JSWCD)  
Board Meeting**

**Directors, Associates**

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

**Staff & Guests**

Randy White – District Manager  
Markie Germer – Administrative Specialist  
Via ZOOM:  
Paul DeMaggio  
Megan Montgomery  
Kora Mousseaux  
Clint Nichols  
Jenna Sanford  
Karelia VerEecke  
Bob Jones – RRWC liaison

Board Chair Campbell opened the meeting at 4:25 pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda

**Minutes**

**A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Niedermeyer to approve the minutes from September 16, 2020 JSWCD Board Meeting passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Niedermeyer to accept the October treasurer's reports as presented passed unanimously.**

**A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Niedermeyer to accept the November treasurer's reports as presented passed unanimously.**

**Staff Reports**

Paul reported on the Medford A & N Project that was recently completed. It is part of the Bradshaw drop water quality improvement project. One mile of pipe was installed, and 50 acres were converted from flood to a pressured system. The irrigation water management portion will be completed next year. Paul showed maps of the project area. The total cost of the project was just under \$400,000. Grants from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) were used for this project. The District committed \$50,000. It equals approximately \$7,500 per acre to convert from flood to sprinkler. This is tied into the Antelope Creek Water Quality Monitoring Project.

### **Staff Reports**

Jenna told about the monitoring that has been done for the Antelope Creek Water Quality Monitoring Project. She presented monitoring data from 2017 through 2020. The data shows a decrease in e-coli from 2017 to 2020. Phosphorus showed a lower reading also. Stream flows have been reduced slightly across the board due to the pipping projects. Board members expressed appreciation of the detailed data and information.

Meghan reported on the Obenchain fire. She and Clint have been out on site visits giving technical assistance and information on different federal agencies disaster programs. The District is purchasing about 8,000 pounds of seed for erosion control. She has been working on sourcing materials such as the seed and straw and the logistics for storing the materials. She and Clint are completing an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant to help with the long term fire recovery.

Karelia reported that National Association of Conservation District (NACD) requested a summary concerning the local fire response, recovery, and community support. The summary will be published in the NACD website.

Clint talked about the Alameda fire. Not much of it is private. The county and cities have stepped up. Along the greenway there has been seeding and erosion control. Clint mailed out letters to private landowners that are in riparian areas affected by the Alameda Fire regarding technical assistance with good response. The District has a District Funds Agreement with Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) for herbicide treatments of black berry bushes along bear creek and its tributaries. The treatments are scheduled for this fall and into the spring. Kora is helping the Old Bridge Village in Talent (the community was completely destroyed in the Alameda Fire) with technical advice for waterwise and fire-wise practices for their rebuilding plans.

### **NRCS Report**

A written report by Peter Winnick, NRCS District Conservationist regarding NRCS activities was e-mailed to the Board. The report included the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program for in the Greensprings fuels reduction and seasonal high tunnel programs. Currently they have 16 pending applications.

He is working with Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) and the NRCS State Forester to develop an application for fuels reduction and defensible space around homes and roads that covers an area from Coleman Creek to Jacksonville.

### **Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) Update**

Clint reported that OCEAN puts on CONNECT each year. The upcoming CONNECT is scheduled for 2021. They plan to develop two tracts: virtual or in person. OCEAN is considering the idea of moving CONNECT to the fall so it will align with Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) annual meeting and maybe get NRCS to have their annual meeting in the fall as well. OCEAN is part of the ORPC partnership made up of four organizations: OACD, OCEAN, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) and the Coalition of Land Trust (COLT). Funding comes from a single OWEB grant and the funds are shared by the four organization. OCEAN doesn't have executive director. The organization is made up of volunteers. OCEAN receives \$15,000 from the OWEB grant and has some sponsorships from other organizations so they are limited on what they can do. OCEAN wants to offer NRCS trainings for NRCS practices such as CREP tech training and job approval authority. A NRCS Grant agreement with OCEAN is now in place for these trainings. OCEAN is looking for an executive coordinator and administrator to manage the grant and coordinate the trainings. Karelia has posted the job position on the website.

**Building Update**

There was nothing to report.

**Equipment Committee**

The chipper is no longer available due to the high liability cost.

**District Funds Committee**

The District funds committee agreed that remaining District funds will be reallocated for landowners who have been impacted by the fires. Randy congratulated the staff for the fast work in helping the fire victims. He went on to say how much he appreciated their work and the long hours they have put in to get the fire rehab on the ground

**Personnel Committee**

District Manager White reported that the Personnel Committee meeting was cancelled due to the fires and COVID but will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

**Legislature Update**

Director Dean reported that they are gearing up for the next legislative session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Annual Meeting Resolution 20-11/100**

**A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Hillers to approve the 2020-2021 Annual Meeting Resolution 20-11/100 as presented passed unanimously.**

**OACD Election Ballot**

**A motion by Director Dean with a second by Director Hamann to approve each candidate for each position as written on the OACD Ballot Form and forward it to OACD. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Cooperative Agreement and Expenditures**

**A motion by Director Dean to approve the Cooperative Agreement in substantially similar form and to include approve a 10% contingency to cover any additional expenditures at the discretion of the District Manager and preapprove the potential changes that will be discussed now. The motioned was seconded by Director Hillers. After much discussion, the Board passed the motion with Director Niedermeyer voting against the motion.**

**Climate Change**

Director Dean would like to discuss this at a later date when the Board can meet in person.

**Manager's Briefing**

District Manager White reported that due to the COVID issues, the Staff retreat will be change to a later date.

**OWEB**

There was nothing to report.

**OACD**

Director Dean reported that he attended the OACD Annual Meeting last week. They had their business meeting and several committee presentations such as the advocacy, climate change and topics for the legislative session.

**SWCC**

Director Dean stated that SWCC had their meeting this past week. He will send out the notes of the meeting as soon as possible. Included in the meeting was the announcement that local OSU Extension has hired a new employee for dealing with wildfires.

**RRWC**

Bob Jones reported on the outcome of the month of October's virtual fund raiser; Celebrate the Rogue. They had 20 sponsors donate about \$11,000 and 86 donors contributed a little over of \$14,500.

**NRAC**

There was nothing to report.

Gordon Jones reported that Oregon State University has created a new position to help deal with wildfires. Christopher Adlam is the Regional Fire Specialist for the Southwest Region. He will have an office at the Extension but for now he is working from home.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Markie Germer*

Markie Germer

Minutes approved as printed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as amended:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_