



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

June 16, 2021  
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District  
(JSWCD)  
Board Meeting

**Directors, Associates**

Allan Campbell – Director  
Stan Dean – Chair  
Don Hamann – Director  
Ron Hillers – Secretary/Treasurer  
Gordon Jones – Director  
Barbara Niedermeyer – Vice Chair  
Nicky Webb Smith – Director - via ZOOM  
Pam Hillers – Associate Director

**Staff & Guests**

Randy White – District Manager  
Markie Germer  
Trevor Morris  
Peter Winnick – District Conservationist - Natural  
Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Juanita Wright – Director Emeritus -Arrived 4:12pm  
Via ZOOM:  
Karelia Ver Eecke  
Jenna Sanford  
Keith Emerson - Rogue River Watershed Council  
Heather Medina Saucedo – Basin Team Leader -NRCS

Board Chair Dean called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Heather Medina Saucedo from NRCS presented the Memorandum of Agreement document and it's supporting documentation to the Board. She stated that this document was created at the headquarters of the USDA NRCS agency in Washington D.C. It is a blanket agreement that is to be used by all Oregon soil and water conversation districts. Heather said that this document cannot be edited or modified. The Board had many concerns and questions regarding the agreement and cited some inaccuracies throughout the document. The Board will send their comments and questions to District Manager White by June 30. He will forward them on to Heather. She will take the information to her supervisor for clarification and then report back to the Board.

Gordon Jones gave a presentation on the Middle Rogue Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) and showed some of the results from the 2020 PSP program. These programs are unique to Oregon and are partnered with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Agriculture. The goal is to improve water quality. The program has a team (led by JSWCD Staff) monitoring streams for pesticides. The results are evaluated to determine where the pesticides are coming from and how they end up in streams. The program is set up to educate the public regarding how best to manage the pesticides, so they don't end up in streams. The PSP has been sampling since 2014. They sample approximately 135 different pesticides and test about 14 times a year in each of the four determined watersheds sites. (Jackson, Wagner, Larson, and Payne Creeks). In 2020, Jackson Creek Watershed was subdivided because the PSP had routinely detected the pesticide of concern, oxyfluorfen (Goal, Goaltender, etc.) in that watershed and wanted to elucidate the land use(s) associated with the oxyfluorfen contamination.

After much investigating and partners reaching out to nearby landowners, the group found a land manager who was using the herbicide. The manager was not aware of the monitoring or that his. Gordon explained to the manager the results of the monitoring and suggested alternatives. The manager was able to adjust application and irrigation practices and reduce his use of oxyfluorfen. In 2020 the results showed zero detections of oxyfluorfen in the Lone Pine Creek. An interesting note: Last year Payne Creek and Wagner Creek detected zero pesticides; Jackson Creek detected pesticides on 18 occasions, and Lone Pine Creek had 122 pesticide detections! The PSP program has been geared toward agriculture areas and it was surprising that Lone Pine Creek, which is mostly in a residential, urban, commercial area in east Medford, would have high concentrations of pesticides. The partnership is waiting for the second year data results before moving forward. Gordon stated that targeted education is the key to keeping our creeks clean. Having a pesticide festival to educate the public is one idea for the future.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Agenda**

There were no corrections, additions, or deletions to the agenda.

### **Minutes**

**A motion by Director Hamann with a second by Director Campbell to approve the minutes from May 19, 2021, as presented passed unanimously.**

It was the consensus of the Board that the minutes from the May 26, 2021, Budget Committee Meeting is correct and should be approved at the 2022-2023 Budget Committee Meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Jenna reported that she is busy monitoring in Antelope Creek. PSP just wrapped up but will be starting again in July. She did the first monitoring at the Joint Systems Canal. Staff installed temp loggers in three of the stations and will install four more. They will be out once a month collecting data during irrigation season. She finished writing two ODA monitoring plans for Antelope Creek Water Quality monitoring and the Joint Systems Canal. This is part of the ODA SOW for the next biennial. Karelia reported that for the Applegate SIA Project, they will first send out surveys to landowners in a pilot program and then they plan to send out 1200 surveys in hope of getting a handle on natural resources needs in the area. She is also working with Dunn Ranch Center for Food and Agriculture. The Dunn Ranch is working toward a regenerative agriculture and a community education workspace. Every Thursday they have a two hour workshop, followed with live music. Karelia submitted a District Funds Application. Trevor reported that he has been working on the usual administrative duties. He has helped with the monitoring for PSP and went out to C-2 to do some flow monitoring. Landowners requesting rental equipment has been slow this year. Trevor is working with Rihanna Simes, who has a walk-behind tractor, and she would like to have it included in the JSWCD rental equipment program. More details to follow.

## **NRCS**

Peter Winnick, District Conservationist, reported that they are working on the new conservation contracts for some of NRCS programs. They have three contracts for the high tunnel initiative which helps farmers extend their growing season. They are in year four of five of the Greensprings Forestry Strategy. NRCS is continuing to work with a Lomakatsi Restoration project, along with Sustainable Northwest, and US Fish and Wildlife. They were awarded \$2.5 million from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP); this program called the West Bear All Lands Forest Restoration Project includes additional monies from non-federal funding. The project covers areas from Wagner Creek to west of Jacksonville. The project includes thinning approximately 5000 acres. Heather said that there is a position open for a NRCS soil conservationist in this office. The position is considered a "direct hire" which means that anyone interested can go on-line and complete the application for consideration.

## **UPDATES**

### **District Funds Committee**

District Manager White reported that the District Funds Committee approved an education outreach application for aquatic species interpretive signs.

### **Personnel Committee**

Pam Hillers reported that the Personnel Committee met to discuss and review District Manager White's Staff Performance Evaluations and the proposed Step and Cost of Living Allowances (COLA) increases.

**A motion by Director Hamann with a second by Director Niedermeyer to approve the 2021-2022 Step and COLA increases for all district staff as presented to the Personnel Committee by District Manager White. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Education Committee**

Karelia reported that the committee is setting up meetings to work on questions of fire, water conservation and climate change messaging before bringing it to staff and the Board.

### **Legislative Committee**

Director Dean reported that the Legislative session is ending on June 28th. In May, the projected Oregon budget came out looking very positive. OWEB monies are looking good. The ODA budget was heard in the Ways and Means Committee, and it looks like the OAD manager that OACD and partners were advocating for, was included in that budget. The budget relating to fire concerns is still in Ways and Means Committee.

Staff was dismissed at 5:10 pm and Pete Winnick excused himself.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution 21-06/103 2021-2022 Budget**

**A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Campbell to approve the Budget Resolution 21-06/103, to adopt the budget, make appropriation, impose the tax, and categorize the tax passed unanimously.**

### **Biennial Work Plan**

**A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Campbell to approve the 2021-2023 Biennial Work Plan and give the District Manager authority to make any needed changes or adjustment with any major changes, at his discretion, being brought to the Board for review and approval passed unanimously.**

### **2021-2023 ODA Scope of Work**

**A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Campbell to approve the 2021-2023 ODA SOW and give the District Manager authority to work with the ODA Monitoring and Implementation Lead and District Staff to finalize both the Joint System Canal and Antelope Monitoring Plan passed unanimously.**

### **ODA 2021-2023 SWCD Capacity Grant IGA**

**A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Hillers to give signatory authority to the District Manager for the 2021-2023 JSWCD Capacity Grant Intergovernmental Agreement and all associated documents based on the fund's distribution for counties with 1 or 2 Districts. The motion passed unanimously.**

Director Dean asked if the Board likes the idea of having motions written out. The Board liked the clarity of written motions realizing that the motion is used simply for opening up discussion.

**REPORTS**

**OACD**

Director Dean said that there was a poll sent out by Jan Lee asking for your preference to have the OACD annual meeting in person or via Zoom scheduled for November 9 - 10, 2021. He asked that everyone respond. Jan Lee is working on the next OACD newsletter. It should be coming out soon. OACD is participating with some regulatory issues; the Oregon Global Warming Commission is developing a policy on sequestration on natural working lands. DEQ's rule making on cap and reduce, which is now called the climate protection program, is working on what is called community climate investments. They are not offsets. Another rule and advisory committee that Director Dean is on is the Agriculture Drainage Maintenance in regard to channels. There are two sets of rules that pertain to this activity from different agencies and need to be figured out as far as timelines are concerned.

**RRWC**

Keith Emerson reported that Donna Chickering, Program Manager, is retiring at the end of this month. The watershed council posted the position and they received 37 candidates. The watershed council is working with the Wild Salmon Center on another streamside enhancement project along Salt Creek which is dovetailed with other projects. On June 25 and 26 there will be an event to remove blackberries on the Greenway where the fire went through. Keith thanked the Board for approving the JSWCD Budget that includes the watershed council support.

Director Dean asked if the Board would be interested in forming a Climate Change Committee to formally take a stand on the subject. An Ad-Hoc committee was decided. It will consist of District Manager White and Directors Hamann, Hillers, Jones, and Dean. District Manager White will schedule a date for the first meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Markie Germer  
Markie Germer

Minutes approved as printed:

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

Approved as amended:

Stan Dean Date 7-21-21