



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

March 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
Stan Dean – Director

Staff & Guests

Randy White – District Manager
Markie Germer – Administrative Secretary
Paul DeMaggio – Soil and Water Conservation Engineer
Clint Nichols – Rural Planner
Kora Mousseaux – Urban Planner
Erin Kurtz – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Colleen Roberts – Jackson County Commissioner
Tom Dover – Rogue River Watershed Council
Eric Nusbaum – Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

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

Paul DeMaggio and Clint Nichols gave a presentation about a feasibility study they developed for landowners on a small conveyance section of the Gold Hill Irrigation District. It was financed through a grant from Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). This small section is maintained by the landowners which is problematic because of the old equipment, the varying degrees of participation from the landowners and, the individual methods they use to access their water. The study gave two options that would make the system efficient for all the landowners, but before any work can be done, the landowners were encouraged to form an association to help organize, maintain, and effectively get the most from their irrigation.

Eric Nusbaum from ODA talked about Director and Employee lobbying and advocating. The two defining differences are as follows: **Political Advocacy** is the purpose to oppose or support to the electorate the following: any political committee, initiative, referendum, recall petition, measure, or candidate.

Lobbying is when you favor or oppose a bill or budget through testimony, writing or talking, or telling a legislator or their staff to promote good will toward an agency or program and lastly, talk or write to others with the intent to ask them to influence legislative action. **You are not lobbying** when you give testimony of facts, or do research or write testimony supporting or opposing legislative action. Employees are limited to testimony of facts, Directors can do political lobbying. Mr. Nusbaum supplied the Board with a pamphlet from the Secretary of State on Political Campaigning and two fact sheets regarding advocating and lobbying. Some questions will need to be addressed to legal counsel like whether writing letters of support for grants is considered lobbying.

Staff was dismissed at 5pm.

AGENDA

Director Niedermeyer requested time to report on the outcome of the District Funds Committee Meeting regarding two District Funds applications.
District Manager White would like to give a building remodel update.

MINUTES

A motion by Director Dean with a second by Director Rice to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2017 Board Meeting passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORTS

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

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT (OACD) – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Information from OACD for the upcoming officer elections was mailed in the Board packet. The deadline for nominating an officer is March 24, 2017. The election will take place at the OACD Business meeting in Pendleton on May 2nd during the CONNECT event.

LAND USE PLAN

District Manager White reported that he spoke to legal counsel regarding the development of a Land Use Plan that would then allow the District to participate in decision making when land use issues arise in the County. Legal counsel advised the District that only state governments that are regulatory and have authority to control zones and boundaries are able to participate in decision making on land use matters. District Manager White would still like to move forward with the development of a land use plan for internal use. Commissioner Roberts said she would pass along information pertinent to the District on land use deliberations. The District can let the County Commissioners know the Board's thoughts regarding land use matters when applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic Plan was reformatted for ease of reading and aesthetics. A line was added to the third page under **Action Items** that reads: *"The District Board and District Manager will work with ODA to develop policy and procedures for lobbying and advocating to guide the District Board and Staff."*

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Wright to accept the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan passed unanimously. Draft will be removed from the document.

OACD BYLAWS

The OACD Bylaws with suggested changes were handed out to the Board for their review. At the April 19 Board meeting, the Board will discuss the proposed changes to the OACD Bylaws and will pick a representative to vote at the OACD Business Meeting on May 2 in Pendleton.

BUILDING UPDATE

District Manager White reported that the remodel is almost completed and he will go through the "punch list" with the architect and contractor. The parking lot needs to be striped and little odds and ends need to be finished. The District is under budget for the remodel at this time.

DISTRICT FUNDS COMMITTEE

Director Niedermeyer reported that the District Funds Committee met to review two applications. One was approved and the other one was sent back to be resubmitted with more details of the project. There is approximately \$3,000.00 remaining in the District Funds budget for this fiscal year.

NRCS

Erin reported that they just received two new government vehicles. She was asked to be a panelist at the Sustainable Northwest Forestry Conference in Hood River on March 30 and 31. The conference is focusing on collaboration like the Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Project (AFAR).

MANAGER UPDATE

The Education and Outreach position is vacant now that Jen Sawtell left the District to work at North Mountain Park. District Manager White would like to look into job sharing with the watershed council. There could be a savings to the District if it can be worked out. Details will follow.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD (OWEB) SMALL GRANTS

Director Niedermeyer reported that the next OWEB small grant cycle for submitting applications is April 16-30. No meeting has been set for reviewing the applications.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (SWCC)

Director Dean will be attending the Klamath Soil & Water monthly meeting in April.

RRWC

Director Dean reported that the watershed council is looking at their board members for help with fund raising and connections to the community. The council is transitioning away from their contracted bookkeeping service and will instead have staff take over the bookkeeping. One of their board members is an accountant whom has been most helpful in the transition.

AGENDA BUILD

Director Dean reminded the Board that the SWCC will have their quarterly meeting here in August. They plan one day for meetings and one day to tour projects. It was decided that the next meeting the Board should start planning for this event.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Markie Germer

Markie Germer

Official Minutes approved as printed:

Allan Campbell 3rd

Date 05-17-17

Approved as amended:

_____ Date _____