



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

**February 17, 2021
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting**

Directors, Associates

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

Staff & Guests

Randy White – District Manager
Trevor Morris
Markie Germer
Via ZOOM:
Paul DeMaggio
Megan Montgomery
Kora Mousseaux
Clint Nichols
Karelia Ver Eecke
Bob Jones

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

Nicky Webb Smith introduced herself and gave the Board a bit of her background. She was raised in Ruch where her family raised cattle. After graduating from high school, she started a career in fire management and has spent 23 years working for a couple of land management agencies. She currently works for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). She and her husband have raised sheep for about 8 years and typically run 20 ewes. They sell them for market lamb projects or locker lambs to individuals. She also has 35 laying hens.

ADMINISTRATION

Agenda

Added to the Agenda is the discussion of vacant director appointment under New Business.

Minutes

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Niedermeyer to approve the minutes from January 20, 2021 with the addition showing Director Smith attended the meeting via Zoom passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Minutes

It was the consensus of the Board that the minutes from the January 20, 2021 Annual Meeting were correct and ready for approval at the October 20, 2021 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

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

STAFF REPORTS

Kora reported that this past month consisted of technical assistance and client coordination. She was on a site visit with a Homeowner Association (HOA) group that needs help with some of the burned area along Colman Creek. Kora and Karelia are doing some outreach in that area. The Pesticide Stewardship Program (PSP) monitoring resumes next week. Three more sites have been added to the monitoring to capture runoff due to the fire. Gordon Jones and Kora will be leading the Annual PSP Meeting on March 11th. Karelia told about the Crater Lake Academy's plan to submit a District Funds Application for planting native, drought resistance, and pollinator friendly plants on the school property and creating a walking trail. She has been doing outreach for fire restoration in the Phoenix area. She is also working with Jenna and Meghan to rework the outreach for the Applegate Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) in hopes of getting more response from the Applegate community for that program. They are working with an organization called Community Base Social Marketing that assesses the community needs and how the community takes in information in order connect with them. Paul stated that he finished a water resource report that contains all the water resources on the property that was formally the Billings Ranch, including a map to show where the new owners could and could not get water. The report includes all potential irrigation improvement ideas. Paul has distributed the report to the participating agencies and organization that went on the initial site visit. If anyone is interested in seeing the report, contact Paul. He also spoke about working in the Focus Area on the C2 Cattle Ranch to improve the on-farm irrigation system. The District is piggy backing with the Rogue River Watershed Council's efforts to remove fish passages in Salt Creek. Paul is working with the Farm Conservation Alliance (FCA) on the joint system canal with Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and the Medford Irrigation District (MID). He is developing the preliminary cost for grant writing purposes. Meghan stated that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) approved the grant that she and Clint submitted. The grant is for funding the Obenchain Fire recovery projects, mostly on forest lands to help eleven (11) properties.

UPDATES

Equipment Committee

Trevor related that the Committee met and discussed how best to monitor the equipment that is being rented. They want to see how many acres are involved, what kind of seed is used, the kind of operation the landowner has, and follow up with the landowner to ascertain the results. They discussed purchasing a trailer to haul the no-till drill and had another discussion on purchasing a weed-wiper.

Personnel Committee

District Manager White said that the committee met, and they are very close to presenting the Personnel Policy to the Board for approval. The Board should be receiving the document in time to read and review it for the March meeting.

Legislature Update

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) created a list of the bills for the 2021 Legislative Session. Included in the list is the position that OACD takes on each bill. The list was included in the Board Packet. Director Dean highlighted the ones he thought were pertinent to JSWCD. *Senate Bill (SB) 287 Wildfire Omnibus* is about how to set up an institutional framework to better handle on wildfires. The bill includes other related proposals. *SB 661* relates to the water of the state. It would establish criteria for what is considered the water of the state and what is not. *SB 541* deals with carbon sequestration. *Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 5* is a joint resolution on public trust issues. This measure might be brought to the voters. If successful it would amend the constitution that would say the state is responsible for looking after the interest of natural resources. *House Bill (HB) 2357* would eliminate the funding for Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). This would end Envirothon as we know it. *HB 2572* would allow several landowners to obtain one permit for adjacent prescribed burns. *HB 2109*

gives counties the process for approving solar facilities. OACD is opposed to this bill in part because they do not want productive agriculture land replaced by solar facilities. *HB 2594* allows water utility companies to establish conservation easements on lands.

NEW BUSINESS

New Director Appointment

District Manager White will develop guidelines and a process for new director eligibility in the event of a vacancy on the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. He will present it at the next board meeting. Director Dean has asked Gordon Jones if he would be interested in filling the vacancy. Gordon agreed. One of the current director eligibility requirements is that the person needs to manage ten (10) acres or more. Gordon will look into whether his position as a manager at Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) meets this requirement.

2021 Annual Meeting Resolution 12-02/101

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Campbell to accept the 2021 Annual Meeting Resolution 12-02/101 as presented passed unanimously.

Quarterly Staff Report Proposal

District Manager White explained that staff made a proposal to use the format that the Rogue River Watershed Council uses for their quarterly report that is provided to the board. Staff will use the District's Strategic Plan as the guideline, with tasks listed and it will include reports of their individual and collaborative projects. Staff would still give a verbal report to the Board on a monthly basis. The Board was agreeable to quarterly staff reports. It was suggested that, if possible, staff include the zone that the projects are in.

Staff was excused at 5:00 p.m.

Advocacy Committee Appointment

At the May 20, 2020 Board Meeting, the Board passed the *Delegating Authority to Advocate Resolution 20-05/97*. At that time, the Board authorized the Formal Lobbying Delegation to be the Chair of the Board, Director Dean, and the District Manager. Now that Director Dean is the Board Chair, another director needs to be appointed to fill the vacant spot. Two signatures are required to submit a formal lobbying letter. At the next meeting, the Board will select a delegate and the resolution will reflect the new delegate for Board approval.

ODA Director Training

A list of the director trainings offered by ODA was included in the Board Packet. The trainings will be presented on-line, and new directors are encouraged to attend as well as directors who will like a refresher on the duties of a board director.

2021-2022 Budget Calendar

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Hillers to accept the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar with the date correction pass unanimously.

Appoint a Budget Officer

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Campbell to appoint District Manager White as the Budget Officer for the 2021-2022 Budget Year.

REPORTS

Manager's Briefing

District Manager White updated the briefing that was included in the board packet. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) e-mailed him changes to their personnel positions including the elimination of three unfilled positions to the ODA Water Quality Program. The

Board discussed what it means to the District with these reductions and what can be done. Director Dean stated that the Soil and Water Commission is aware of this situation and plans to discuss the topic at their fall meeting.

OWEB

Barbara Niedermeyer reported that the small grant team is wrapping up the last biennium by making sure all documentation pertaining to grants is complete and is preparing for the next biennium.

OACD

Director Dean stated that Oregon Association of Conservation District (OACD) is in the process of updating their website. The working lands committee is progressing.

SWCC

The SWCC meeting was postponed due to the winter storms. A new date has not been determined.

RRWC

Bob Jones stated that the watershed council submitted a grant to OWEB for \$75,000 to support fire response on private lands within the Almeda Fire footprint. The District has been helping with this project. The watershed council received a grant from the Rogue National Water Quality Improvement Plan for source water protection. They are working with the Drinking Water Partnership that includes the water commission, Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCG), and Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVSS). The watershed council is developing a water quality report card for some streams in the basin, like Bear Creek, Little Butte, and the Rogue River. A Southern Oregon University (SOU) student that was on the RRWC board is developing a video promo for this project. Bob attended the January OWEB Meeting and was told that the budget is looking much more positive than anticipated.

AGENDA BUILD

Director Niedermeyer asked about the resolutions. They will be available by the next meeting, to be kept permanently in the conference room as a reference.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Markie Germer

Markie Germer

Minutes approved as printed:

_____ Date _____

Approved as amended:

Steve Dean

_____ Date 3-17-21