



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

April 19th, 2023
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting

Directors, Associates

In attendance:

Stan Dean – Chair
Barbara Niedermeyer – Vice Chair
Don Hamann – Director
Frank Baratta – Director
Ron Hillers – Secretary/Treasurer
Pam Hillers – Associate Director
Katelyn Detweiler – Director

Zoom:

Staff:

In attendance:

Jill Smedstad – Executive Director
Trevor Morris – Business Manager
Josh Bilbao – Agriculture Resource Conservationist

Zoom:

Kora Mousseaux – Community Water Resource Conservationist
Meghan Montgomery – Forest Resource Conservationist
Paul DeMaggio – Soil & Water Conservation Engineer
Clint Nichols – Riparian Resource Conservationist

Excused:

Jenna Sanford – Stewardship Monitoring Coordinator
Hannah Satein – Education and Outreach Coordinator
Kim Ingram – Office Assistant
Nicky Webb Smith – Director
Gordon Jones – Director Emeritus
Juanita Wright – Director Emeritus

Guests:

In attendance:

Ezra Huebner

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

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Baratta to approve the March 15th, 2023 meeting minutes passed unanimously.

A motion by Director Hiller with a second by Director Niedermeyer to approve the March treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Administrative Update

Executive Director Smedstad reported that the remodel would be happening soon as the contracts have been signed. She has been working on the BWP, ODA SOW and partner connections. Karen Bolda is coming back for another District Focus Meeting with all staff. Trevor has been updating her on financials and internal controls as he prepares for Family Leave.

Quarterly Staff Reports

Josh introduced himself as the new Agricultural Resource Conservationist and gave the board some information on his education and background. He is taking over the Equipment Rental Program and has been given the staff lead on NWQI.

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Kora has been extremely busy doing lots of field work. Most of her time will be spent on the Stormwater Rebate Program through the month of April. She has submitted 6 rebates so far with a few more coming before May 1st. She is going to a Stormwater Summit in May.

Paul has been doing design work on the Phillip's Ditch Project. He is in the final design phase and hoping to be done by year end. He spent some time working on the Joint System Canal Project. \$5 million has been approved for that project. Phase one construction will begin in October. He has been working on NWQI to detail some engineering practices for Ag water quality improvements in the EP irrigation district area. They are looking at making improvements in flood irrigation, gated pipe systems, fencing and management of tailwater. Paul reported that Emigrant Lake and Howard Prairie are still low but filling rapidly. They will still be below average for the year. Hoping for another El Nino year to get the average back up.

Clint's been working on the Reese Creek Restoration project and the S. Obenchain Fire footprint. Planting for the season has been completed. He has been helping with NWQI project developing cost estimates and practice scenarios for riparian restoration in the lower Little Butte Creek Watershed areas. He had submitted an application for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to secure funding for fuels reduction, defensible space and ignition resistant construction. He is waiting to see if he is approved.

Meghan reported that as of this date, she is done with this season's treatment under the SB762 Small Forest Land Grant Program. They worked with 13 landowners over 20 tax lots and 190 acres. It was very successful. She is working on rolling out an RCPP that we were awarded along with other partners focused on climate-smart post-fire recovery practices. Will be doing a series of open houses in May that provides technical and financial assistance in getting restoration practices on the ground. She has been working with ODF and NRCS on writing a CIS for wildfire hazards in the NE part of the county.

Trevor has been working with Jill getting her up to speed on District business along with preparing the budget.

Quarterly Financial Report

Trevor updated the Quarterly Financial Report and walked the Board through it. He explained that it is a draft, and he is open to suggestions for any changes. Director Hillers and Trevor will work together to finalize this document.

Partnership Reports

Director Dean had no update for RRWC.

Peter Winnick, with NRCS says they will wrap up all of their financial assistance by May.

Commissioner Roberts introduced herself to Director Smedstad and told her about her role with JSWCD.

District Funds Advisory Group

No Update

Personnel Committee

Associate Director Hillers reported that the Personnel Committee met a few weeks ago to update the Performance Review process to make it easier to understand. There is a training at the end of May at the Rogue Regency.

Legislative Update

Director Dean explained that a lot of things are tied up in Ways and Means right now. He put in a second letter of support for the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Incentive Program and it made it's way through the first policy committee. OWEB's budget was pushed off a week and Director Dean put together a letter of support.

Bank Signatures

Director Niedermeyer moved to add Director Stan Dean to the list for check signing. Director Hillers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Biennial Work Plan

Executive Director Jill Smedstad explained that the Biennial Work Plans were emailed out to Directors, and paper copies were available and passed around. Not all Directors received the email. Jill explained that the staff intended to revamp the entire work plan structure but with the changes in staffing and staff-led district focusing efforts, they decided to maintain the current structure. Stan had provided Jill with written feedback in advance of the April board meeting. Jill thinks that the staff can make a good number of the revisions based on Stan's feedback, and some of the high level changes will need to wait. Director Dean explained that the District needs to get a work plan to ODA by the end of May. Director Dean suggested that the staff could make changes and bring it back to the Board by the May meeting to be approved for the time being. Then they should renew the structure and bring it back to the Board at a later date but not to put it off. The Board further discussed the purpose of the work plan and how it should relate to the strategic plan and other operational documents and plans. Director Dean then shared his feedback on the work plans.

REPORTS

OWEB – Small Grant Team

Director Niedermeyer had no update

OACD

Director Dean stated that OACD hired a new Executive Director

SWCC

Nothing new to report

Agenda Build

At the next meeting we will have the SWAT presentation. Directly after the May board meeting we have the Budget Committee Meeting.

Public Comment

None

Additional

Director Niedermeyer noted an error on the BOD Contact List and encouraged everyone to check their information for accuracy. Use of JSWCD email address was discussed and it was encouraged to use the JSWCD email address.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____ Business Manager

Minutes approved as printed:

 _____

Date 5-17-23

Approved as amended:

_____ Date _____