



UPPER WILLAMETTE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

62nd Annual Meeting

January 10, 2017 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Food for Lane County Board Room

770 Bailey Hill Rd. Eugene, OR 97402

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: John Sullivan, Tom Burnham

Board Attending: Gary Jensen, Ralph Perkins, Al Hynnyshyn, Don Mogstad

Staff Attending: Dave Downing, Lynn Gilliland, Lily Leitermann

Beginning at 12:45 all 9 attendees enjoyed a pizza lunch, with Caesar salad and cookies.

Three large pizzas were donated to us by Papa's Pizza, W 11th Location.

Welcome: Board Chair, Gary Jensen welcomed everyone at 1:25 pm. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves. He gave a brief overview of what the UWSWCD does, as well as what organizations we work with.

District handouts included the Agenda, the 2015-16 Annual Report, the 2015-16 Budget and Balance Sheet as of 6/30/16. The 2015-16 Audit Review was present.

Public Comment: none

Report of the 2015-16 Annual Report: Dave Downing gave an overview of the Annual Report (report attached). Funding options are few and very competitive. The District operates well within a very small budget, and strives to broaden and strengthen partnerships and find funding opportunities.

Ralph added that he is pleased to be a part of an organization that accomplishes so much. Dave added our partnership with the NRCS is vital and much appreciated.

Other Reports:

- Gary Jensen gave a review of the financial status of the District as of 6/30/16. Our Annual Review keeps us compliant with the ODA and state regulations. He added the competitiveness for funding, and that grant money often goes to the Watershed Councils instead of the SWCD's....because they are not tied to any government entities.
- Dave Downing, District Mgr – his report of the ODA overview was inclusive in the Annual Review report.
- Lily Leitermann, Watershed Technician – gave an overview of the Pure Water Program (PWP - formerly the pilot program VIP), a part of the McKenzie Collaborative Partnership with EWEB. PWP is now considered a 501(C). The program includes agreements with rural landowners, riparian work, protection and restorations activities and naturescaping...all to protect drinking water and water quality in the McKenzie Watershed.
- John Sullivan, Landowner - added there is a new county concern about a 200 ft setback planned (under the Clear Water Coalition). He is backing out of it but hopes the District can be involved in the meeting and the process – and get ahead of it. Maybe PWP can work with this. (a ar
- Tom Burnham, NRCS – spoke to the handouts he presented; 2016 Statewide NRCS Annual Report and a list of the programs handled through the Eugene NRCS office.

Cooperator of the Year Award: Dave Downing gave an introduction to the Fil Acres/John and Carol Sullivan Ranch up the McKenzie highway and how he promotes conservation. His farm has stopped burning and replaced it with mulched orchards (in a move to replace diseased trees). As a former military Captain and a professional with Morgan Stanley he (and his wife Carol – a 3rd generation on Fil Acres/50 acres) has been active in Lane County in many areas of agriculture and projects. A plaque was awarded to and presented to John and Carol Sullivan with our sincere appreciation.

John graciously accepted the award, and then spoke to how landowners are becoming more and more significant to Oregon. And how grass seed farmers are turning it into hazelnut orchards. Protecting water is a struggle to make the hazelnut industry work. He said the industry is a tremendous industry. Hopes future generations working Fil Acres continues their work. (5-7 years to produce, and is the fastest growing orchards)

Gary Jensen adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

Respectively submitted

Lynn Gilliland
UWSWCD Administrative Specialist