

Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday April 14, 2020 3 pm

Public Meeting Notice was sent to the Register Guard, as required

ATTENDANCE:

DIRECTORS:

Al Hyrnyshyn, Chair
Ralph Perkins, Co-Chair
Gary Jensen, Treasurer
Abel Kloster, Director
Chuck Arrera, Director
Malcolm Wilson, Director
Mary Durfee, Director
Eric Nusbaum, Associate Director

UWSWCD STAFF:

Dave Downing, Manager/Tech Specialist
Lily Leitemann, Conservation Specialist
Clarissa Berndt, Admin Specialist

NRCS Staff:

Tom Snyder, District Conservationist
Guest: Sydney Nilan, Upper Willamette
Stewardship Network Coordinator

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1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Al Hyrnyshyn

Agenda was reviewed, and Al requested the agenda be amended to add Tom Snyder's report under Staff Reports. Malcolm moved to accept agenda as amended / Ralph seconded the motion / no additional discussion / motion unanimously carried.

2. ***Call for Public Comment:***

- A. Sydney Nilan: Announced that the Upper Willamette Urban Waters partnership was approved for EPA grant – will be used for branding and outreach in urban areas. Also mentioned that all community events previously mentioned and discussed have been cancelled until further notice due to the virus.

3. ***Action Items:***

- A. **Review BOD Minutes – March 2020:** Ralph moved to approve the March Minutes as presented / Mary seconded / no further discussion / motion unanimously carried.
- B. **Review Special Work Session Minutes – March 2020:** Malcolm moved to approve the Special Work Session March Minutes as presented / Al seconded / no further discussion / motion unanimously carried.

- C. **Review Financial Reports – March 2020:** Ralph moved to accept the financial reports as presented / Mary seconded the motion / general questions regarding how to understand different reports were asked and answered / motion carried unanimously. Abel asked if we could get a column added to the Budget vs Actual report with a multi-year comparison; Clarissa will add this report to next month's financial reports.
- D. **Personnel Committee Recommendation** – Clarissa's probationary period ended on March 31st. Dave presented probationary review to personnel committee and received positive statements regarding probationary period. Committee recommends wage increase to bring Clarissa up to industry standard wage for position. Mary made a motion to approve the stated recommendation / Al seconded / no further discussion / motion carried unanimously.

4. **Director Reports**

- A. **Al Hrynshyn:** Long Tom is meeting via Zoom, trying to figure out how to work with restrictions.
- B. **Ralph Perkins:** McKenzie doing all meetings by video.
- C. **Gary Jensen:** Government agencies are uncertain about programs with shutdowns and restrictions. OWEB has challenges from loss of lottery revenue streams – unsure of how that will affect us.
- D. **Abel Kloster:** Country fair still does not have an official notice of shut down, so booth is still a possibility but looks highly unlikely.
- E. **Mary Durfee:** Nothing to report; waiting for restrictions to let up before going out to do any sort of outreach.
- F. **Chuck Arrera:** Attempting to inquire about county fair online but it's having technical difficulties; can't get a hold of anyone on the phone either. Looking unlikely that the fair will happen this summer.
- G. **Malcolm Wilson:** Nothing to report.
- H. **Eric Nusbaum:** ODA loosened up restrictions on scope of work funds so that it can be used for payroll if needed during this time. Working with OWEB to figure out CARES act – huge liability for small districts since they can't use banked sick leave; SWCD's not eligible for CARES act currently.

5. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Dave Downing:** See attached report for March.
 Would like to add that there was a virtual meeting OWEB put on indicating that all grants with agreements in place will be honored including our current bienium, but new grants are put on pause. Looking at other avenues for funding – attending virtual meeting with OACD about NACD grant, as well as other opportunities.
 We were selected for NWQI for Monroe, in partnership with Long Tom WC – finishing up that paperwork so we can start the process.
 Back in the office as of last week, and currently accepting soil samples at the office while implementing social distancing measures.
- B. **Lily Leitermann:** See attached report.
 Will be having SIA meeting in May – will have updates next month.
 PWP all happening online now, working on getting informational webinar hosted live to reach new landowners with the program; trying to figure out other strategies as well. Conducting regular PWP riparian surveys in May – no contact with others so it's safe for social distancing.
- C. **Clarissa Berndt:** See attached report.

- D. **Tom Snyder:** No local work group meeting due to restrictions – will have same focus as last year due to this. Open to suggestions/thoughts from board. There have been three signups for McKenzie CIS.
6. **Announcements/Correspondence**
- A. CONNECT Conference has been cancelled.
- B. ODA Election packets have been sent out to the three board director positions up for election.
7. **Unfinished Business**
- A. Tax Base Discussion – Discussed the effects of the Coronavirus on the upcoming November election. Conditions are considerably altered and it is still unclear on just how much finances will be affected come November. Could be that people are more into working in their yards and paying more attention to the needs of the environment. May be that people will be more aware of the importance of soil and water conservation and protection now.
- B. Virtual Marketing Campaign – Dave encouraged the board to email ideas regarding virtual campaign to him. This will be discussed at the upcoming REC meeting next week – getting the message formed to head the marketing campaign.
8. **Pure Water Partners Reports**
- Lily presented a slideshow explaining what the PWP program is and the UWSWCD's role in it. PWP is primarily funded by EWEB under their Source Water Protection program. Before the water reaches the intake area, it flows through many different urban and residential areas, picking up pollutants. This leads to the importance of protecting the water source. Creating healthy riparian areas and floodplains is essential in accomplishing this. The PWP program works to protect the riparian areas and rewards good stewardship through payments to landowners who maintain healthy riparian areas. The PWP focuses on the most critical areas and prioritizes where to work so that the most good can be done. The UWSWCD is one of the local partners that works with the local landowners to implement these conservation practices on each property.
9. **Items for Next Month's Agenda- May 12, 2020**
- A. Revenue Enhancement Committee update
- B. Preliminary Review of 2020-2021 Budget
- C. Preliminary Review of 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan
- D. Personnel Committee – Dave's Annual Review
10. **Adjournment:** With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm.