



UPPER WILLAMETTE

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday July 14, 2020 3 pm

Public Meeting Notice was sent to the Register Guard

ATTENDANCE:

DIRECTORS:

Al Hyrnyshyn, Chair
Ralph Perkins, Co-Chair
Gary Jensen, Treasurer
Abel Kloster, Director
Malcolm Wilson, Director
Mary Durfee, Director

UWSWCD STAFF:

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

NRCS Staff:

Tom Snyder, District Conservationist

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

Agenda was reviewed. Dave wanted 3D moved down to New Business. Change the numbers on the agenda after 7 to be proper order. Malcolm moved to approve agenda as amended / Mary seconded the motion / no additional discussion / motion unanimously carried.

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

- A. None present.

3. ***Action Items:***

- A. **Review BOD Minutes – July 7, 2020:** Malcolm moved to approve the July 7, 2020 Work Session Minutes as presented / Ralph seconded / no further discussion / motion unanimously carried.
- B. **Review Financial Reports – June 2020:** Malcolm moved to accept the financial reports as presented / Al seconded the motion / no further discussion / motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Social Media Policy:** Discussed the social media policy. Al made a motion to approve the social media policy as presented / Malcolm seconded / no further discussion / motion carried unanimously.

4. ***Director Reports:***



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- A. **Al Hrynyshyn:** Al will be addressing the Long Tom WC board at their September meeting regarding what the district is looking for from them as a partner. He will also be going to the Tuesday (the 21st) county commissioner meeting and addressing them.
 - B. **Ralph Perkins:** Dealt with health concerns recently. Process for running for re-election for his position is going smoothly.
 - C. **Gary Jensen:** Discussed ODA structure and budget challenges. Stepping down from OWCC, so the position is open.
 - D. **Abel Kloster:** Not a lot to report on the SWCD front. Thinking about putting together a brief guide to cost share and grant funding that the District could offer to the public; currently stockpiling information to get a draft put together. He will be talking to the City planners for Springfield and Cottage Grove about the district. Heard back from Agroforestry grant – 2 weeks out from making final decision, will know by next monthly BOD meeting.
 - E. **Mary Durfee:** Had some conversations with people about a possible tax base. Police and fire were discussing putting something on the ballot. Library also.
 - F. **Chuck Arrera:** Not present.
 - G. **Malcolm Wilson:** Been working on document with Sydney. Incorporated feedback from partners. Hoping to get it out to board and staff shortly. Contacted Amanda Gilbert after REC meeting; will be attending Coast Fork board meeting in August. He will also try to make arrangements to contact Eugene City Council in July.
 - H. **Eric Nusbaum:** Not present.
5. **Staff Reports:**
- A. **Dave Downing:** See attached report. Meeting with Funk/Levis tomorrow morning to discuss formatting strategic plan, website redesign and messaging.
 - B. **Lily Leitermann:** See attached report.
 - C. **Clarissa Berndt:** See attached report.
 - D. **Tom Snyder:** See attached report.
6. **Announcements/Correspondence:**
- A. **OACD Survey:** Dave thanked all the board members for getting him their answers for him to compile and send out in time for the board meeting. Compiled all answers and added all additional comments to the survey. Will send to Jan at OACD. It was noted by Ralph that several years ago, our district proposed lowering the acreage requirement for director eligibility to 5 acres to allow more diversity within the board, but it was voted down heavily at the state level. Board is happy to see that the state is looking at making eligibility much more diverse and inclusive.
7. **New Business:**
- A. **Reimbursements for internet/phone use:** Dave mentioned that we are encouraged to have a COVID policy, and in looking into that, found that other districts were offering a stipend for internet and phone usage for employees who are working from home. Dave proposed a stipend of 50% of employee's



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phone and internet cost, up to \$50/mth while they are working from home (currently affecting Lily and Clarissa). Malcolm made a motion that the board provide the proposed stipend of 50% of phone/internet up to \$50/month backdated to April / Mary seconded the motion / Gary mentioned that it should be a straight \$50 stipend each month per employee to avoid the need for extra documentation, all agreed / Malcolm amended motion to be a \$50/month stipend as long as COVID remains with its restrictions, postdated to April / Mary seconded / no further discussion / motion unanimously passed.

8. **Unfinished Business:**

- A. **REC Update / Tax Base Discussion:** Directors and partners discussed document from Malcolm & Sydney at the REC meeting. The partners talked about how their respective organizations feel about supporting the district's plans for the future regarding pursuing additional funding. Lily has been trying to reach out to the state to get questions answered about filing a ballot, cost of filing, etc. and has not been getting any feedback; will be talking to Sandi at ODA about getting her help to get a response from the state. Al mentioned that the board will be holding a special BOD meeting on Wednesday, July 22nd at 11 am for the board to vote on whether to move forward with a district tax base on the November election. Malcolm proposed a counter proposal for directors to postpone the vote by 6-12 months and use the current funds to begin to build the programs we are talking about. He wanted to propose that as another option to consider before the vote on the 22nd. Al asked for any other comments. Dave mentioned that he had been working on preliminary work to form some ballot language, will be a capped levy amount. Board can choose to levy less per year if desired. Mary requested that Dave bring the ballot language to the board meeting on the 22nd.

9. **Items for Next Month's Agenda- August 11, 2020:**

- A. REC update
- B. Financial Statement Analysis Presentation

10. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.