



# UPPER WILLAMETTE

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 10, 2020 3 pm – APPROVED 12/8/20

Meeting held via Zoom

Directors Present: Al Hrynyshyn, Gary Jensen, Abel Kloster, Malcolm Wilson, Mary Durfee, Chuck Arrera; Directors Absent (excused): Ralph Perkins; Associate Director Present: Eric Nusbaum; Staff: Dave Downing, Lily Leitermann, Clarissa Berndt; Partners Present: Sydney Nilan; Public Present: Ashley Vandehey, Stephen Caruana, Herb Gazeley, Paul Hoobayr.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm by Chair Hrynyshyn. He thanked staff, board and partners for their hard work and support for the tax measure, and congratulated all for the win.

#### 1. Approval of Agenda

Director Wilson moved to accept the agenda as presented, Director Jensen seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 6-0.

#### 2. Call for Public Comment

Chair Hrynyshyn led the board in introductions to the public present, then offered each time to speak.

- Stephen Caruana: Expressed his interest in attending the meetings due to various factors. He was recently elected to Churchill Neighbors, and is involved with the Neighborhood Leaders Council which put together a Fire Forum and is interested in working with the SWCD on that. He used to be the DC in Sherman County as well as South Dakota, and is very interested in being a part of the UWSWCD and helping out.
- Ashley Vandehey: Lives in the South Eugene University neighborhood and has a vested interest in SWCD's. She went to school for climate change, and is interested in grass roots conservation. She has worked at OSU in the REACH program and knows the area very well.
- Herb Gazeley: Lives in the McKenzie Valley and is an active volunteer with McKenzie River Trust. He has a real interest in healthy watersheds and fish recovery. He is attending to offer his help to the district.

#### 3. Additional Action Items

- a. Oct 13, 2020 BOD Meeting Minutes: Director Durfee made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, and Director Kloster seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 6-0.
- b. October Financial Reports: [Reports reviewed and discussed: Balance Sheet, Check Register, Fund Balance Spreadsheet, Profit & Loss Budget v. Actual, Profit & Loss by Class, Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison.] Director Jensen recommended forming a subcommittee to start discussing financials for addressing the legal needs of a tax-based district. Director Wilson asked when these tax funds will start to become available, and Eric Nusbaum answered Dec 2021. Director Wilson made a motion to accept the October financial reports as presented, and Director Durfee seconded the motion. Motion was passed with a vote of 6-0.

#### 4. Director Reports

- a. Chair Hrynyshyn: Nothing to report.
- b. Director Perkins: Excused absence.
- c. Director Jensen: Expressed thanks to all for their work toward the tax measure, and said we have positive things to promote moving forward. He mentioned that there is a big source of funds coming from NRCS/FSA, and we would make a good liaison to get these funds to landowners to use on their properties.

- d. Director Kloster: Congrats to everyone for making it to the other side. He mentioned the Local Food Local Places grant as something that we may be able to look into in the future, in partnership with others.
- e. Director Durfee: Unsure of Zone 2 results until later in the month when write-in candidates are tallied.
- f. Director Arrera: Expressed gratitude for everyone's hard work. Mentioned an article on toxics found in the Willamette River; wants to share these sorts of things with board members.
- g. Director Wilson: Now taking over for Director Jensen on the MWSC and on McKenzie watershed committee task force. Director Wilson noticed that, in comparison with other burn areas around the state, we have a well-organized structure with the partners to enable work to get done more efficiently.
- h. Eric Nusbaum: Report from ODA – Now down 4 people that won't be back for 2 years. Positions are still being shuffled around. Swore in Al Hrynyshyn to the SWCC; he will have his first meeting next week. Eric is working on putting together training for staff/board which should be ready around February. Sydney Nilan asked to be part of the training.

#### **5. Staff Reports**

- a. Dave Downing: See attached report. Nothing more to add.
- b. Lily Leitermann: See attached report. Lily wanted to give a brief update on the work being done in the McKenzie watershed on properties with low to high burn severity. The first half of the month was spent working on assessments. There were over 100 property owners who applied for assessments; worked with MRT, CFWC, and MWC on these assessments. After assessments were completed, they transitioned over to best practices implementation. NWYC is working on the ground with low to medium severity properties, installing wattles, mulch and native seed mix broadcast over moderate slopes. Approximately 3-4 properties are getting done a day. They were able to hydro seed on a steep drop-off cliff that had no vegetation. NWYC will continue to work this week and next week, and then they are finished for the season. EWEB has several other contractors available for on the ground work. This winter, the crews will be planting shrubs, etc along approx.100 acres along the river. There has been much gratitude expressed for the excellent organization with partners. Director Wilson echoed the gratitude that has been received from landowners.
- c. Clarissa Berndt: See attached report. Clarissa mentioned the invitation being extended to all area SWCD's to take part in a DEI discussion spearheaded by Marion SWCD.
- d. Tom Snyder: Absent. See attached report.

#### **6. Announcements/Correspondence**

- a. OACD Survey Results: Dave Downing briefly discussed the survey results received back from OACD and distributed to the board.
- b. Wild & Scenic Film Festival Update: Clarissa Berndt shared that MRT gave us 5 free "tickets" to share for this year's online festival. Chair Hrynyshyn said that 3 should go to staff first, and the board members agreed. Sydney Nilan shared the link to purchase tickets for \$10/each.

#### **7. New Business**

- a. Annual Meeting: Tabled for next meeting in December due to time constraints.

#### **8. Unfinished Business**

- a. Tax Measure Update: Eric shared a PowerPoint presentation discussing the steps that the board will need to take now that the tax measure was approved. The strongest suggestion made was for the board to form a Transition Committee. Chair Hrynyshyn made a motion to establish the Transition Committee to coordinate the transition of the district moving to a taxing district, and Director Wilson seconded the motion. Motion was passed with a vote of 6-0. The Transition Committee is as follows: Chair Hrynyshyn, Director Wilson, Director Kloster, Eric Nusbaum, Dave Downing, Clarissa Berndt, Sydney Nilan.  
Director Arrera mentioned that he would like to serve on the Personnel Committee. Chair Hrynyshyn added him to the Personnel Committee.
- b. Post Fire Recovery Update: Was discussed by Lily Leitermann during her staff report.
- c. Marketing Update: Clarissa Berndt will send the board the update from Funk/Levis via email due to time constraints. Dave Downing mentioned the NACD article that is being published about our work on the Holiday Farm Fire recovery.

**9. Items for Next Month's Agenda – December 2020:**

- a. Post Fire Recovery Update
  - b. Annual Meeting preparations
10. Chair Hrynyshyn adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

*All supporting documents mentioned in the minutes are a part of the official record, and are available upon request. Please contact the office at [admin@uwsxcd.org](mailto:admin@uwsxcd.org) to request copies.*

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