



UPPER WILLAMETTE

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROJECTS & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday January 11, 2021 3:30 pm

APPROVED 2/1/2021

Meeting held via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Al Hrynshyn, Malcolm Wilson, Sydney Nilan, Gary Jensen, Eric Nusbaum, Abel Kloster, Mary Durfee, Lily Leitermann, Dave Downing. Committee Members Absent: Clarissa Berndt. No public present.

Chair Al Hrynshyn called the committee to order at 3:30 pm

This was the first meeting of the UWSWCD Board's Projects and Infrastructure Committee.

The chairman summarized the context and importance of the committee for the future of the District.

1. We must be true to our mission.
2. We must be responsive to our constituents who helped us develop our vision and strategy plan and who have entrusted us with a tax base to execute, over time, those plans.
3. To those ends we must collaborate effectively internally and externally.
4. The committee touches the work of all aspects of the Conservation District and they affect ours.

OAG Liaison Nussbaum listed crucial needs:

Recruiting new people, finding space to put the people. The main item of discussion was how to further develop in the coming months the tasks and priorities for the Conservation District. There is much to do before 2022, when the tax-based funding will begin. For example, the District will need to review personnel policy and do recruiting in the next 18 months. The larger staff requires plans for new space and procedures for the office and for information technology needs. The Board needs to develop both short term projects, with associated procedures, for the coming 18 months and also longer-term plans and procedures for new programs and projects, along with relevant ways to evaluate the programs.

Consistent with the law, committees of the Board of Directors may also have informal groups to discuss how to go forward. They do not make decisions, they can help the Board understand options.

One informal discussion group will look at options for physical space for the Conservation District staff and enough room to accommodate partners and the interested public. Dave, Lily, Eric and Clarissa will start to development information for the Board.

A second informal discussion group will consider how we can best advance the plans we proposed to the electorate in the next 18 months. Where can we add on additional efforts to on-going successful activities? What 1-3 projects could we reasonably start? Dave, Lily, Sunny (Stewardship Network), and Malcolm Wilson will engage those topics.

A third informal discussion group will consider ways to encourage meaningful community engagement. The Vision and Strategic Plan were both developed with a far larger group of people and organizations in our District. That connection between the Conservation District and partners must continue. Perhaps it might be called the Conservation Partnership. Malcolm Wilson, Abel Kloster, Sydney, and Lily agreed to deepen the relationships with the larger community.

Al concluded with a call for members of the Projects and Infrastructure Committee to re-read the following items:

1. ORS 568.225 on the mission and purpose of Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
2. Election Explanatory Statement that briefly set out why we requested a tax base.
3. Proposal for tax base
4. Vision for the District

5. Strategic Plan

AI adjourned the meeting at 4:35

Minutes Respectively Submitted by Mary Durfee, Board Member

Meeting #1 Chair Perspective submitted by AI Hrynshyn

STRUCTURE? WHAT STRUCTURE? How do we do that?

1. Who we are:
 - a. We are the most important committee. We decide and direct where the SWCD's energy and resources will go.
 - b. In a sense, the Personnel and Finance Committees operate at our direction. Personnel will look for skills and hire based on the needs of projects we choose for them to get involved in. Finance will manage income, expenses, and resources based on the requirements of the projects we choose to participate in.
2. Who we need to be:
 - a. True to the stated mission, beliefs, and goals of the UWSWCD.
 - b. Responsive to our constituents and welcoming of their involvement.
 - c. Collaborative, both internally (staff/ other committees), and externally (other conservation organizations; community organizations).
 - d. Involved and educated. We have to know what's going on in the larger conservation community now. We don't live in a little bubble anymore, and we've now become sort of big time, and manage an investment that can greatly impact our community. We can't do this if we don't see the big picture.
 - e. Realistic & Responsible. We have to know what we are capable of, and work within that reality. This means we will have to be creative and responsive to our mission, while also fulfilling our legal responsibilities.
3. How do we get there?
 - a. Before we get in a big hurry to assign anything, we need to know what we're up against and what we need to take care of. We need to organize ourselves in a way that ensures the UWSWCD remains viable and effective into the future. And that's where Eric's knowledge and experience will benefit us.
 - b. To get a sense of the direction we have determined the UWSWCD should move in, I would like to suggest we reacquaint ourselves with these documents:
 - i. ORS 568.225
 - ii. Measure 20-312 Explanatory Statement
 - iii. Tax-base Vision Document
 - iv. UWSWCD 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

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 to request copies.

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