



UPPER WILLAMETTE

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 2, 2021 10 am – DRAFT

Meeting held via Zoom

Committee members present: Dave Downing, Lily Leitermann, Clarissa Berndt, Mary Durfee, Malcolm Wilson, Sydney Nilan, Al Hrynyshyn. Committee members absent: Gary Jensen, Eric Nusbaum. No public present.

1. Chair Hrynyshyn called committee to order at 10:02am.

Agenda was reviewed. Motion was made by Executive Director Downing to approve agenda as presented; Director Hrynyshyn seconded. Agenda approved unanimously.

Motion was made by E.D. Downing to approve February 1 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Director Durfee. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Director Hrynyshyn presented update from Eugene Wildfire Preparedness Coalition webinar. Guest speaker was Katie Gibble, Community Wildfire Coordinator from Ashland Fire Department. Director Hrynyshyn will contact Ms. Gibble to seek more information about the role of SWCD's in Ashland's Fire preparation efforts. Coalition also gave update of plans to conduct neighborhood escape route mapping in the South Hills areas of Eugene in the near future.

3. Committee member Nilan discussed future plans for Revenue Enhancement Committee (REC). Partners in the Stewardship Network (UWSN) wish to be kept in the loop of our future plans and be part of any planning and scope of work discussions. Member Nilan proposed setting up future meetings with UWSN partners, and committee agreed this is a good idea.

4. Discussion of building/infrastructure needs. Director Hrynyshyn gave a brief update on the Potters Field property. Hrynyshyn has been in contact a representative of Greenway Guardians about possible contact with the current owners of the property, Evergreen Development, about about timing and future plans for the property. It was suggested that we reach out to the public and our partners about the possibilities and need for acquiring this property, and what options there may be. It was also discussed that obtaining legal representation to discuss these options with Evergreen's legal team would be a good idea. Funding being an issue, Greenway Guardians suggested they may be willing to offset the legal costs of this discussion.

E.D. Downing presented the physical and financial requirements for new UWSWCD office space. Rent costs, space, parking, internet, and accessibility requirements were discussed. Finding such a property is a daunting task for those unfamiliar with this process, and it was decided to enlist the help of a professional commercial real estate broker in this search. The committee authorized Director Durfee to research and contact some brokerages, with the goal of finding a competent and experienced broker, and arranging for the inspection of properties meeting our projected needs. The defunct Pioneer Pacific College facility in Springfield was given as an example of such a property. Director Durfee will inform this committee of progress made in this area.

Chair Hrynyshyn adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

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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