



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

March 15th, 2023
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting

Directors, Associates

In attendance:

Stan Dean – Chair
Barbara Niedermeyer – Vice Chair
Don Hamann – Director
Frank Baratta – Director
Nicky Webb Smith – Director (4:22)
Gordon Jones – Director Emeritus
Juanita Wright – Director Emeritus
Ron Hillers – Secretary/Treasurer
Pam Hillers – Associate Director
Katelyn Detweiler – Director

Zoom:

Staff:

In attendance:

Randy White – Executive Director
Kim Ingram – Office Assistant
Paul DeMaggio – Soil & Water Conservation Engineer
Meghan Montgomery – Agriculture Resource
Conservationist

Zoom:

Kora Mousseaux – Community Water Resource
Conservationist
Hannah Satein – Education and Outreach Coordinator

Excused:

Jenna Sanford – Stewardship Monitoring Coordinator
Clint Nichols – Riparian Resource Conservationist –
Trevor Morris – Business Manager

Guests:

In attendance:

Peter Winnick
Ezra Huebner

Director Dean called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

A motion by Director Hamann with a second by Director Hillers to approve the February 15th, 2023 meeting minutes passed unanimously.

A motion by Director Hamann with a second by Director Niedermeyer to approve the February treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Administrative Update

Executive Director White explained that an interior remodel would be happening soon. This is to remove the cubicle in the annex and replace it with two offices. The offices would take up the current cubicle space as well as the back closet area. Director Dean reported that the new Executive Director would be starting the following week to work with Randy, take one week off, and then be back on April 3rd.

Staff Updates

Kora reported that PSP sampling has started for the year. The PSP annual meeting will be happening on the 23rd of March. She has also been working on multiple applications for the stormwater rebate program. She

anticipates several to be turned in before May 1st. Kora attended the RRNW Conference in Stevenson, Washington. The conference was a success and was extremely informative.

Hannah reported that she has been deeply involved in SORE (Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon) that takes place on April 3rd. She has been updating the resource page on the JSWCD website as well as organizing woodland open houses. She has been working with Meghan and Clint to begin outreach for the event. This work is specifically tied to funding through Sustainable Northwest.

Paul updated the Board on the Joint system canal. He has been working with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) to help do some preliminary design work. Additionally, he is working on Phillips Ditch pipeline project. This is a 16" diameter pipe, approximately 6000 feet long, in the Little Applegate area. He is putting the finishing touches on that design. Paul has also been involved in National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). Director Dean asked if Paul could explain what the change in water rights in the Klamath Basin means for the Rogue Valley. Paul stated that it will result in less late season water due to a decrease in water storage.

Nikki Webb-Smith joined the meeting at 4:22pm.

Meghan reported that she has been working with Paul, Clint and John Speece with the Rogue River Watershed Council, on the last complex pieces of the NWQI. She has been working with NRCS and SNW on a RCPP to support restoration on five major westside Labor Day fires in 2020. Meghan has been in the field much of her time, working with 13 landowners, in the South Obenchain fire footprint.

Meghan requested an additional \$25,000 in District Funds for her Small Forest Landowner grant. The District has already approved \$50,000 previously. The total ask of District Funds for this project would total \$75,000. **A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Webb-Smith to approve an additional \$25,000 toward the Small Forest Landowner grant passed unanimously.**

Partnership Reports

Director Dean reported that the RRWC added additional territory in the Evans Creek area. RRWC's annual fundraiser for Celebrate the Rogue was announced today as well.

Peter Winnick, with NRCS, introduced their newest employee, Soil Conservationist Ezra Huebner. NRCS is continuing work on the West Bear project running the west side of the valley. This is an extremely high priority area. The NRCS LWG is scheduled to happen on March 21st at 10am.

Legislative Update

Director Dean reported that he went through his list of 80-90 bills that he is tracking. He wanted to share SB530 Natural working lands sequestration policy. This continues to move forward despite some opposition. The Director Eligibility bill doesn't seem to be moving. CAFOS are getting a lot of attention in the legislature. HB 2527, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, if passes, Director Dean would like to see implemented here in Jackson County. HB2998, Soil Health Program, passed through the committee but was taken down from approximately four million to two million for financial reasons. HB316 which is the green infrastructure grant program. Director Dean stated this was one to pay attention to.

Executive Director Performance Review

In the past the review has happened once per year. Director Dean stated that the Board/Personnel Committee convene and discuss to revise the current review process. Director Webb-Smith had concern with waiting too long to review. She suggested a more frequent review process, especially initially. The

Board asked the Personnel Committee to meet and discuss options concerning the performance review process. **A motion by Director Baratta with a second by Director Hillers to add Director Detweiler to the Personnel Committee passed unanimously.**

Board of Director Job Descriptions

Director Dean would like the Board to develop job descriptions for the JSWCD Board of Directors. After brief discussion, the Board stated that additional trainings would be beneficial.

Director Training Debrief

Director Dean asked the Board what they got from the recent Director training put on by Eric Nusbaum with ODA. The Board members that attended said it was a great refresher. The SWCD guidebook is currently getting revised. Over the next year chapters will be updated as they become available.

District Email Accounts

Director Dean urged the Board to use their first.last@jswcd.org emails rather than their personal email accounts. The reason for this is if there were to be a public records request, Board Members personal emails may be at risk of opening their personal accounts to public record.

REPORTS

OWEB - Small Grant Team

Director Niedermeyer reported that they received two applications, one of which was an upland process and function and the other was a fish passage. There is approximately \$1,100 remaining. Director Niedermeyer will update the Board on whether there will be a grant cycle in May.

OACD

Director Dean stated that OACD has interviews for their Executive Director earlier in the day. No announcements have been made at this time although Director Dean is fairly confident that a selection will be made. After selection, the new Executive Director will start May 1st and have two months of overlap with the current Executive Director, Jan Lee.


SWCC

Nothing new to report

Agenda Build

Director Dean reminded the Board of the "parking lot" reminders at the bottom of the agenda. A brief review of these topics was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at about 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by: 
Business Manager

Minutes approved as printed:



Date 4-29-23

Approved as amended:

_____ Date _____