



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
89 Alder Street Central Point OR 97502
Telephone: 541-423-6159 Fax 541-727-7471
www.jswcd.org

MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

May 19, 2021
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting

Directors, Associates

Allan Campbell – Director
Stan Dean – Chair - Absent
Gordon Jones – Director – via ZOOM
Don Hamann – Director - Arrived 4:10p
Ron Hillers – Director Secretary/Treasurer
Barbara Niedermeyer – Vice Chair
Nicky Webb Smith – Director - via ZOOM
Pam Hillers – Associate Director - Absent

Staff & Guests

Randy White – District Manager
Markie Germer
Trevor Morris
Via ZOOM:
Paul DeMaggio
Megan Montgomery
Clint Nichols
Karelia Ver Eecke
Colleen Roberts – Jackson County
Commissioner
Peter Winnick – District Conservationist -
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Bob Jones Rogue River Watershed Council

Board Vice Chair Niedermeyer opened the meeting at 4:00 pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Roberts reported that the commission has been busy helping to find housing for those affected by the fire. They are also working with the debris removal issues. The Commission submitted a proclamation against the continued mandates on the local business and Jackson County citizens regarding COVID19. The Board is moving forward with the 2nd amendment and there will be public hearing soon. The Commission is meeting with the forest service tomorrow regarding the Obenchain fire. Let Colleen know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Agenda

There were no corrections, additions, or deletions to the agenda.

Minutes

A motion by Director Campbell with a second by Director Hillers to approve the minutes from April 21, 2021, as presented passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Campbell to accept the April treasurer's reports as presented passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Paul reported on the completion of the Medford A & N Irrigation Improvement Project which comes off of the Hopkins Canal Project. This was a NRCS EQIP Program. It was also funded by DEQ and the District. Approximately 50 acres were converted from flood irrigation to a center pivot system. This project is a good project to showcase the effectiveness of converting to a gravity feed system. This project is on Highway 140 just passed Meridian Road. There will be a tour on June 15 & 16. Contact Paul if interested in participating in the tour. Paul reported on a new flow meter rebate program. Karelia reported that she has been wrapping up the regional Envirothon. At the State Envirothon, the Crater Charter placed 2nd and the Renaissance SNRL placed 4th and they placed 2nd in the oral presentation. She was an instructor for Salmon Watch two weeks ago and is scheduled again for tomorrow at McLoughlin Middle School. Karelia has been talking to the personnel at the Dunn Ranch on Neil Creek in Ashland, They are planning a community educational program from June through August on their regenerative agriculture. The 2022 JSWCD Day Camp Event is scheduled for the whole week at the Dunn Ranch. Kora said she mailed out 61 letters to residents along Coleman Creek in the hopes in helping with the post fire recovery. Clint said he is continuing to help with the Obenchain fire recovery. Megan reported that she has been helping Clint with a grant application to help with the fire recovery for citizens from Butte Falls to Shady Cove and along Highway 140. She has been helping Karelia and Jenna with outreach in the Applegate SIA. Jenna is still working in the Antelope Creek area. They did their first sampling run last Thursday. She is also working on a monitoring system for the joint system canal. Trevor has been helping with the PSP flow tracking and the Antelope Creek monitoring. There has not been much activity for the equipment rentals.

NRCS

Peter Winnick, District Conservationist, reported that the new soil conservationist is now on board and working with Peter. NRCS is working with a Lomakatsi Restoration project, along with Sustainable Northwest, and US Fish and Wildlife. They were awarded \$2.6 million from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) that will go with \$1.2 million from non-federal funding. This is for the West Bear All Lands Forest Restoration Project. The area includes from Wagner Creek to west of Jacksonville. The project includes thinning approximately 5000 acres of forest over the next five years. This project is a continuation of the project called Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration (AFAR). Peter talked about the other projects and programs his office is involved in.

UPDATES

Equipment Committee

Trevor reported that he has been doing some repairs and maintenance on the equipment.

Personnel Committee

District Manager White reported that in June the Personnel Committee will meet to review performance evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS

New Director Appointment Protocol

A motion by Director Hamann with a second by Director Campbell to accept the new Director Appointment protocol. There board would like the District Manager to check with legal counsel before advertising the position. **The motion failed.**

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Webb-Smith to accept the New Director Appointment Protocol as presented with the addition that the District Manager will seek legal counsel before posting. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Policy

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Hamann to accept the Personnel Policy as presented passed unanimously.

REPORTS

OWEB Small Grants

Director Niedermeyer stated that all reports for both small and large grants need to be submitted before the small grant team can approve and submit the next biennial by laws.

RRWC

Bob Jones reported that Donna Chickering, the educational outreach coordinator, for the watershed council will be retiring and they are looking for a replacement. The watershed council has been working with the District on the Alameda and South Obenchain Fires. John Speece has been giving tours at the Blue Heron Park along with others. The watershed council is working with the water commission and other agencies that deal with water quality improvement. Celebrate the Rogue will be in person this year. It is scheduled for October 16, 2021, at the Ashland Hill Inn.

The Oregon Envirothon donation form was passed out to the board and Karelia will post it on the district website.

CONNECT had a lot of sessions and a lot of discussion regarding climate change, Karelia asked if the district should have a statement regarding this topic. District Manager White suggested that staff work on a statement and presented it to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Markie Germer
Markie Germer

Minutes approved as printed:

Steve Dean Date 6-16-21

Approved as amended:

_____ Date _____