



Board Approved May 19, 2021

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

April 21, 2021
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting

Directors, Associates

Allan Campbell – Director
Stan Dean – Chair
Gordon Jones – Director – via ZOOM
Don Hamann – Director
Ron Hillers – Director -
Secretary/Treasurer
Barbara Niedermeyer – Vice Chair
Nicky Webb Smith – Director - via ZOOM

Staff & Guests

Randy White – District Manager
Markie Germer
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)

Students & Teachers - Via ZOOM

Crater High School

Anna Warntjes -Teacher
Andrew Breeden
Kim Aynes
McKenna Dumore
Neve McGuire
Emma Amadeus

Logos Charter School

Chris Van Ness - Teacher
Chris Anderson
Adam Hill
Naomi Nelson
Lydia Reymer
Julian Gonzalez

Board Chair Dean opened the meeting at 4:00 pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
Commissioner Roberts had nothing new to report at this time.

Envirothon Students representing Crater High School and Logos Charter School gave their oral presentations regarding the issue of *local control with local solutions as it pertains to source water protection.*

ADMINISTRATION

Agenda

District Manager White requested time under New Business to update the Board on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Focus Area Action Plan (FAAP).

Minutes

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Hillers to approve the minutes from March 17, 2021 passed unanimously.

Jackson SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Jackson SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

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

Karelia reported on the first regional Envirothon event held at the Crater Land Lab on April 7th. This was a virtual and in-person event. A total of 25 students participated with five teams. Three of those teams qualified for the state Envirothon competition. The event had four testing stations: Aquatic Ecology, Soils and Land Use, Forestry, and Wildlife. Clint Nichols, Megan Montgomery, and Jenna Sanford as well as Greg Stabach from Rogue Valley Council of Governments and (RVCOG) and John Speece from Rogue River Watershed Council (RRWC) helped with the event. District Manager White praised Karelia and her team for creating an excellent event. Director Webb-Smith asked if agencies and organizations that work in the natural resource fields could be included in the event to promote internship and job recruiting. Karelia answered that this was the plan until the COVID pandemic restricted their involvement. The plan is to offer agencies and organizations the opportunity to inform students of the potential for internships and jobs.

NRCS

Peter Winnick reported that the newly hired soil conservationist will start work in about three weeks. The application deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) was last Friday. The office received 14 applications for forest fuel reductions and one application for the Bradshaw Drop Irrigation Project. They received three high tunnel applications. Also, one conservation securities program (CSP) renewal application was received. NRCS is working with Lomakatsi, Sustainable Northwest, and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), on a large Regional Conservation Partnership award for the West Bear All Lands Forest Restoration Project. This is the number one priority in Rogue Basin for reducing wildfires. This project will cover west of Wagner Creek to Jacksonville on the west side of Bear Creek. It covers approximately 27,000 acres.

UPDATES

Personnel Committee

District Manager White reported that the personnel policy was sent to HR Answers for their review.

They sent back extensive suggestions, requirements, and edits. Markie worked on the changes that did not require input from the committee. Yesterday the Personnel Committee reviewed the changes and gave more input. Markie will incorporate their comments and decisions into the Personnel Policy. The Board will receive the final copy for their review before the May Board meeting.

Education and Outreach

Karelia reported on future funding for Oregon Envirothon of which she is a board member. House Bill (HB) 2357 would eliminate Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI) which is the primary fund source for Oregon Envirothon. Director Dean said that the bill has been revised and amended leaving OFRI with 1/3 of the funding. The bill has not been voted on in the Senate. Oregon Envirothon is hoping to get help for the funding from conservation districts. Karelia presented a slide show created by Oregon Envirothon to give some history, promote the program, and ask for funding. District Manager White said he has already included the funding in the draft budget to help fund Oregon Envirothon.

Legislature Update

Director Dean talked about the letter of support that was mailed April 16th and was not included in the Board packets. A copy was handed out just before the meeting. The letter is in support of Senate Bill (SB) 5502 relating to the financial administration of ODA.

OLD BUSINESS

Risk Management Documents

Director Dean said the Risk Management Policy and the Resolution need to be understood and approved by the Board. The rest of the documents are informational for the Board to review.

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Campbell to approve the Risk Management Resolution # 21-04/102. There was some discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Director Appointment Protocol

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Campbell to accept the New Director Appointment Protocol as presented. After much discussion, the motion was unanimously opposed.

A motion by Director Webb-Smith with a second by Director Hamann to include additional statements to the New Director Appointment Protocol. The added statements should identify the need for a Director and add how to solicit interested parties. Then revisit the protocol at the next board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Focus Area Action Plan

Director Dean reported that ODA decided that the Focus Area (FA) program was no longer required for the Soil and Water Districts. This is partly in response to the survey that ODA sent to the districts and the lack ODA manpower to administer the program. It is now an option for the districts to decide whether to continue with the FA or not. Currently, in ODA's Scope of Work (SOW), the District reports FA activities in task 9. District Manager White sent an e-mail to Beth Pietrzak, ODA's Water Quality Specialist, explaining that the District would use Tasks 1-8 to report the FA activities. From a phone conversation that followed, with both Beth and Ellen Hammond, ODA's Monitoring and Implementation Lead. It appeared they would like JSWCD to continue with the Focus Area and turn in the Focus Area Action Plan (FAAP) application with the SOW, as it is one of the best Focus Area in the state. The District Manager explained that the District had no intention of stopping work in the Focus Area and that the District is expanding work on the Joint System Canal with the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and the Medford Irrigation District (MID). He feels that there is no reason that the work the District is doing could not be captured in the reporting and documentation in Tasks 1-8 in the SOW. After talking with staff and Chair Dean, it was decided that the District will use the monitoring portion (section 8.c.) of the FAAP and decide whether to develop it to the Department of Environment (DEQ) level to have an approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) or just have it a JSWCD lead monitoring Plan. District Manager White will submit the section in with the SOW application, showing that the District will only be reporting to Tasks 1 – 8 and specifically using Task 4 (monitoring) to report on the monitoring in the Focus Area, as well as other areas in the county. The District will use Task 1 (Partnership and Landowner), Task 2 (Technical Assistance), and Task 5 (Partnership Development) for reporting aspects of the work being accomplished within the Focus Area boundaries. These Documents will be in the June Board Packet for review and approval.

REPORTS

There was nothing new to report in this section.

AGENDA BUILD

There were no comments for this section.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Markie Germer

Markie Germer

Minutes approved as printed:

Alan Dean

Date 10-20-21

Approved as amended:

_____ Date _____