



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED

September 18th, 2024
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
(JSWCD)
Board Meeting

Directors, Associates

In attendance:

Ron Hillers – Director
Stan Dean - Director
Pam Hillers – Associate Director
Maxine Cass – Director
Don Hamann – Director
Frank Baratta – Director
Barbara Niedermeyer - Director

Guests/Partners

Blake Elliot

Staff in attendance:

Jill Smedstad – Executive Director
Trevor Morris – Business Manager
Jenna Sanford – Watershed Monitoring Specialist
Ellie Zignego – Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
Paul DeMaggio – Water Conservation Engineer

Guests in Attendance:

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

July Meeting Minutes

A motion by Director Baratta with a second by Director Cass to approve the July Board meeting minutes passed unanimously. Director Dean mentioned a sentence that was unclear in the NRCS update.

August Meeting Minutes

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Hillers to approve the August Board meeting minutes passed unanimously. Director Niedermeyer asked that her name be added to the in-attendance list. Associate Director Hillers also mentioned a repeated word in Meghan's staff report.

Treasurers Report

A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Hamann to approve the Treasurers Report passed unanimously. Trevor gave a brief overview of the District's finances. Director Hillers mentioned that the financial report showed personnel expenses much higher this month than the previous month due to 3 pay periods in August, versus the single pay period that landed in July.

Staff Presentation: Jenna Sanford

Jenna presented data from her Antelope Creek Water Quality Monitoring project. This project has been ongoing since 2017. She shared project sites, baseline and trends monitoring to include E. Coli bacteria, total phosphorous, as well as temperature.

Partnership Reports:

Rogue River Watershed Council

Director Dean stated that the RRWC is doing great with no major updates. Executive Director Smedstad handed out the most recent RRWC report to the Board.

Admin Report:

Executive Director Smedstad reported that the Audit is complete and will be presented in the October Board meeting. She also stated, at Director Niedermeyer's request, that she has been going through the policies and aligning them with resolutions. She will share a list of the policies and resolutions in the October Board meeting. Recruitment for an intern to work with Clint this fall has started. Kim has been soliciting quotes from landscaping companies to improve the landscaping adjacent to the parking areas. In early September, Kora, Jill, Trevor, and Jenna met to review JSWCD's coordination of the Middle Rogue PSP. Jill and Kora will meet with key partners, and Kora is preparing a short survey to be distributed to stakeholders to assess the program's value to the region. Moving forward, we are considering options for the 2025-2027 PSP grant cycle which might include adjusting monitoring locations to align more closely with our focus on the Little Butte Creek watershed or conclude the Middle Rogue PSP altogether and reallocating staff time to other initiatives. The new Oregon Public Meeting Law requirement mandates all elected officials to complete one public meeting training. Eric Nusbaum from the Oregon Department of Agriculture is preparing training specifically for SWCDs, which will meet the requirement for board members. This training is expected to be available in 2025.

JSWCD Equity and Environmental Justice Statement

Director Dean asked Jill to give some background regarding the statement. Executive Director Smedstad stated the memo in the Board packet has some background information regarding the statement. The statement is in conjunction with a NACD (National Association Conservation District) grant that JSWCD is applying to regarding technical assistance funding to cover staff time costs. It is a requirement that Districts include their Equity and Environmental Justice Statement in the application. Director Dean shared that the statement sounds great, but there is also a lot of work to be done regarding how we implement this in day-to-day operations. Director Niedermeyer asked how this statement compared to the other SWCD's in the state. Executive Director Smedstad stated that it was middle of the road comparatively. After Board discussion, Director Dean suggested a motion to approve the statement as an initial draft, then have staff develop a plan for Board discussion, and revisit this draft. **A motion by Director Hamann with a second by Director Cass to approve the statement as an initial draft, then have staff develop a plan for Board discussion, and revisit this draft passed unanimously.**

Amending Resolution 113 (Annual Meeting Date)

A motion by Director Niedermeyer with a second by Director Baratta to amend Resolution 113 to change the date and time of the JSWCD annual meeting to November 20, 2024, at 5:00pm passed unanimously.

Legislative Updates

Director Dean met with Representative Emily McIntire on Monday. Director Dean shared JSWCD's annual report and Natural Stewardship Handbook along with some general information about SWCD's. Director Dean updated the Board on some of the upcoming priorities. OACD is sponsoring legislation on Spanish language education for the pesticide licensing applications. This will likely be carried out as a mini-bill and

has some good traction. Another item OACD will be supporting is the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program. They will also be watching closely renewable energy siting and agency budgets.

OWEB Small Grants

Director Niedermeyer reported that grant applications opened on Monday September 16th, 2024, and end on September 30th, 2024. They will have a review in the first part of October.

OACD

Director Dean stated that the OACD conference in Hood River is coming up in mid-October.

Executive Director Smedstad reported that Kora is conducting a Community Water Conservation survey to see what issues are in the community and how we can support folks.

Agenda Build

Public Meeting Policy and Training

Dispute Resolution Policy Update

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Management Program

JSWCD Equity and Environmental Justice Statement

Public Input

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: *Trevor Morris* Business Manager

Minutes approved as printed:

_____ Date _____

Approved as amended:

Stan Dean Date 24/10/24
Stan Dean (Oct 24, 2024 17:02 PDT)









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Final Audit Report

2024-10-25

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