

35285 Millard Road St. Helens, OR 97051 Ph: 503.433.3205

Minutes of the Columbia SWCD Board of Directors Meeting April 19, 2023

Directors Present:

Jeff VanNatta, Treasurer Debra Brimacombe, Vice Chair

Bill Eagle, Secretary
Dave Freytag, Director
Michael Calhoun, Chair

Jason Busch, Director (via Zoom)

Associate Directors Present:

Barbara Travis

SWCD Staff:

Malyssa Legg, District Manager Jennifer Chavez, Operations

Coordinator

Selene Keeney, Senior Resource

Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS):

Hannah Isaacs, District Conservationist

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council

(SBWC):

Rachell Meyers, Council Coordinator Alex Monroy, Resource Manager

Lower Columbia Engineering (LCE):

Lilli Shriver, Engineering Tech (via Zoom)

Public:

Claudia Eagle

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING: 4:00 PM

Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to approve the Minutes from 2-15-23. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Financial Report: Motion VanNatta/Eagle to accept financial Reports from 2-28-23 and 3-31-23. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**.

<u>Bills to Pay</u>: Motion Eagle/Freytag approve to pay the bills. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

				Expenditure Splits	
Ck#	Payee	Memo	Amount	CSWCD	GRANT
2908	Pershing LLC	Retirement Payment	\$2,208.78	\$2,208.78	\$0.00
2909	Aquatic Contracting	Carcus Creek Project	\$116,662.50	\$0.00	\$116,662.50
2910	LCEP	Water Quality Monitoring	\$12,579.64	\$12,579.64	\$0.00
		Perkins Creek Planting and Weed			
2911	Native Plantscapes	removal on other sites	\$4,398.21	\$0.00	\$4,398.21
		SUBTOTALS >>>>>>	\$135,849.13	\$14,788.42	\$121,060.71
TOTAL REQUESTS >>>>>>>>>>>>					\$135,849.13

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REPORTS

- NRCS: Hannah explained that the Soil Conservationist position has been filled, though there has not been a start date determined. Hannah is also working on compiling a list of local outreach events to provide to producers. A brief discussion was held.
- <u>Upper Nehalem Watershed Council:</u> Michael mentioned that the council's Annual Meeting will be on May 18th. He will be bringing Douglas Fir tea to share.
- <u>Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:</u> Rachell mentioned that the council's advisory meeting is coming up. She added that the native plant sale was successful, and that the council has some projects in the works.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Audit**: Malyssa emailed the received audit to the board. She provided a copy of a proposal from a new auditor. Brief discussion held. Malyssa will contact the new auditor to accept the proposal for future work.
- **Contracting Policies**: Malyssa explained that she has been working with the district's lawyer, Eileen, on reviewing current policies. She is waiting to hear back from her and will then update the board.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Member Communication:** Michael proposed that email communications from the board be reserved for directors who cannot attend meetings. A brief discussion was held.
- Land Acknowledgement: Michael explained that many SWCD's include land acknowledgement and equality/equity descriptions on their website and would like the board to consider adding one to the CSWCD website as well. Discussion was held. Malyssa suggested that a committee be formed to create the statement.

Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to approve that a committee be formed. **Approved Motion** passed by unanimous vote.

- Annual Workplan: A copy of the workplan was provided to the board. Malyssa explained
 that the recent changes made were mainly to the projects. A brief discussion was held.
 Motion Eagle/VanNatta to approve the Annual Workplan as presented. Approved Motion
 passed by unanimous vote.
- Policy Committee Review: Malyssa would like to reconvene the policy committee around September to continue working on the personnel policy. She mentioned that there should be another Board member on the committee to replace a previous director. Brief discussion held. Malyssa would like Eileen to review the personnel policy once it is ready. Malyssa added that directors can email her if they would like to be on the committee.

REPORTS cont.

- Bill will be presenting at the Soil Stewardship this Sunday. Brief discussion held.
- Deb had a meeting with OMIC (Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center) staff and mentioned that there are a lot of future opportunities for the District, such as events, workshops, education opportunities, etc. She added that there is an upcoming pollinator day event. Brief discussion held.

- Jeff mentioned that we have had a cold and wet spring, which will be delaying producers. He added that lumber prices are also very low. Jeff also discussed the culverts and fish passage on little Clatskanie. Discussion was held.
- Selene provided a brief update to the Board. The Carcus Creek project is ready to be implemented, with large wood set to be placed in mid-June. She added that the Carr Slough Phase 1 project received funding from the Bonneville Environmental Program, which allowed for about \$10k for planting. No funds from the CSWCD were needed. Selene also mentioned that the district has been receiving a lot of calls that have been forwarded from Land Development Services (LDS) again. She explained that there seems to be some confusion or miscommunication. SWCD staff plan to meet with LDS staff to address. A brief discussion was held.
- Michael would like all of the board members to feel like they have a voice and feel heard. He explained his experience with different boards/committees and would like to ensure this board has a good flow.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: **Jennifer Chavez Jennifer Chavez Jennifer Chavez**