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Minutes of the Columbia SWCD Board of Directors Meeting January 18, 2023

Directors Present:

Jason Busch, Chair Bill Eagle, Secretary Dave Freytag, Director Debi Brimacombe, Vice Chair Michael Calhoun, Director

Associate Directors:

Barbara Travis Allison Charbonneau

Public: Claudia Eagle Kellie Jo Smith, Commissioner Kenneth Travis Lynn and Gregg Pettit Jason Legg

SWCD Staff:

Malyssa Legg, District Manager Selene Keeney, Resource Conservationist Amber Kester, Resource Conservationist Crystalyn Bush, Resource Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

Hannah Isaacs, District Conservationist Dee Robinson, Program Support Tech

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA):

Don Kloft, Ag Water Quality Specialist Amanda Robinson, SIA Specialist

Lower Columbia Engineering:

Lilli Shriver, Engineering Tech (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING: 4:04 PM

Jason swore in new Director, Michael Calhoun. **Motion Eagle/Busch** to appoint Deb to Zone 5 Director. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote** Jason swore Deb into her new position.

Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM

CALL TO ORDER OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING: 4:08 PM

ANNUAL REPORT:

Malyssa introduced the annual report and praised Jenn for an excellent job on it.

STAFF ANNUAL REPORTS:

- Selene spoke about the Clatskanie PUD project.
- Crystalyn spoke about eDNA testing for Pacific lamprey and efforts to survey and educate about Emerald Ash Borer. Don asked if there was anything surprising about the lamprey results. Crystalyn said they were found much higher in watersheds than previously known and that there were some positive tests for Chinook as well in places not mapped by ODFW as Chinook habitat.

Jason asked about Emerald Ash Borer and mentioned that the SWCD can monitor his property for signs (He has about 30 ash trees). We will look into placing a trap there this summer.

• Amber spoke about the small grant and weeds programs.

<u>NRCS REPORT:</u>

Hannah spoke about their different programs currently in effect. High tunnels are popular. Every year contract funding in our county goes up, which is exciting to see. She is hoping to be able to do more outreach in the coming year(s). They have a new small farms and gardens person, Kacey, but he was unable to make the meeting.

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL (LCRWC) REPORT:

Malyssa said they are currently looking for projects.

UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED COUNCIL (UNWC) REPORT:

Michael said their new website is almost done after a year of waiting. The person working on it did it for free as part as part of their college work. The WC is trying to buy "Claudia the Salmon" for the Salmon Festival next year. Their next board meeting is 1/26/23.

SCAPPOOSE BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL (SBWC) REPORT:

Greg Pettit, SBWC Chair, said they just hired a new Coordinator and a replacement for their Project Manager. They are trying to get funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for their upper Raymond Creek project and are completing work on Brush Creek.

<u>COMMENTS</u>:

- Hannah said that the amount of work our District does is "phenomenal" compared with all other places she has worked. She is very proud to work here.
- Crystalyn announced that the Oregon Invasive Species Council is looking for a representative from the NW region and to let her know if anyone is interested.
- Malyssa mentioned we are still waiting on our audit to be complete.

Annual Board meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER: 4:46 PM

INTRODUCTIONS:

All in attendance gave brief introductions.

- Don noted that there is a new water monitoring specialist at ODA that he will put the SWCD in touch with. The biennial meeting to review and update the North Coast Ag Water Quality plan is on 4/26/23. He will be reaching out to agencies for data and information.
- Amanda is the new SIA specialist for ODA which is a statewide position. ODA is coming up with a new list of SIA locations in 2023. OWEB just released a new grant program called the Ag Water Quality Support Grant. It was funded by ODA with \$650,000 for the first year.

Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to approve the Minutes from 12-21-22. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to accept financial Reports from 12-31-22. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote**.

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

BILLS TO PAY (US Bank) January 18, 2023					
				Expenditure Splits	
Ck #	Payee	Memo	Amount	CSWCD	GRANT
2883	Bemis Printing	Annual Report	\$2,415.72	\$2,415.72	\$0.00
		Plants for Womack Small Grant			
2884	Deer Island Nursery	Project	\$302.00	\$0.00	\$302.00
	Native Plantscapes	Deer Island Small Grant Project			
2885	NW	& Womack Small Grant Project	\$1,051.00	\$0.00	\$1,051.00
		Carr Slough Phase 2 Easement			
	NW Local Gov Legal	discussion and research with			
2886	Advisors	lawyer	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00	\$0.00
		Annual Liability, Property, Auto,			
2887	SDIS	Property, & Crime Insurance	\$19,120.00	\$19,120.00	\$0.00
2888	Stillwater Sciences	Lamprey Project	\$2,202.00	\$0.00	\$2,202.00
2889	Pershing LLC	Retirement	\$2,125.63	\$2,125.63	\$0.00
		SUBTOTALS >>>>>>>	\$28,536.35	\$24,981.35	\$3,555.00
TOTAL REQUESTS >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>					\$28,536.35

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kellie Jo brought up that Knife River is trying to get permits to mine on Liberty Hill. Public comments to the USACE or DEQ are due by 1/31/23.
Bill shared his comments that he submitted and asked others to comment as well. There was

Bill shared his comments that he submitted and asked others to comment as well. There was a discussion about what the risks and negative results of mining at this site would be.

<u>REPORTS</u>

• NRCS: Hannah noted that the local workgroup meeting will be on 2/16 from 9:30 – 12:30 at the SWCD office. All are invited to attend. She will send out a zoom link for those that want to attend virtually.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Regional Directors Training/ODA:** Malyssa mentioned that board members can attend the Regional Directors training at ODA. She sent out an email with instructions.

• Cooperators/Contracts:

Motion Eagle/Brimacombe to approve two Cooperator Agreements. Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:35 PM

Minutes recorded by: Crystalyn Bush, Resource Conservationist

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Chavez Jennifer Chavez, Operations Coordinator

APPROVED 2.15.23