



**Columbia
Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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**Minutes of the
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting January 17, 2024**

Directors Present:

Debra Brimacombe, Vice Chair
Bill Eagle, Secretary
Jason Busch
Jeff VanNatta

SWCD Staff:

Malyssa Legg, District Manager
Jennifer Chavez, Operations Coordinator

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
(NRCS):**

Hannah Isaacs, District Conservationist

**Scappoose Bay Watershed Council
(SBWC):**

Rachell Meyers, Council Coordinator, CSWCD
Associate Director

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING via Zoom: 4:02 PM

Prior Month's Minutes: Motion Eagle/VaNatta to approve the Minutes from 11-15-23. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Financial Report: Motion Eagle/Busch to accept the Financial Reports from 12-31-23. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Bills to Pay: Malyssa explained that there are no bills to present since this is a virtual meeting and they would not be able to be signed. She recommended Bill and Deb can review/sign when they are in the office next week for a meeting. She explained that there are only two bills needing to be paid.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REPORTS

- **(NRCS):** Hannah explained that a new employee (Becca) has been hired and will begin on February 12. The Local Work Group is scheduled to be held virtually on February 28th from 9 AM – 12 PM. Hannah also mentioned that they are moving forward with the 2024 contracting, adding that the submission cutoff for the conservation stewardship program is March 28.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Bank Account:** Malyssa sent an email out last month explaining that there had been fraudulent activity on the District's bank account. Someone from the Bank reached out to Malyssa and helped get it sorted out, and the money returned to the account. The District is now set up with a system to help track fraudulent activity, though it has been mentioned that a new bank account may be needed. Malyssa added that she did file a police report but has been having trouble staying in contact with the officer from the police department to get this moving forward. She will provide an update when possible.

Rachelle joined the meeting at 4:19 PM

APPROVED 02.21.24

REPORTS cont.

- **SBWC:** Rachell explained that the council is moving forward with getting projects ready for Spring. She is planning to hold a meeting with Wild Columbia in March to discuss their reptiles and amphibian findings. She added that they are also working on making a few small changes to the Strategic Action Plan.

OLD BUSINESS cont.

- **Amend Annual Meeting Resolution:** Since the Annual Meeting had to be rescheduled due to the weather, the resolution needs to reflect the date change.

Motion VanNatta/Eagle to amend the resolution to change the meeting's date from January 17, 2024 to February 21, 2024 and have it signed next week when Bill and Deb are in the office.

Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- **SDAO (Special Districts Association of Oregon) Conference:** The conference will be held February 9-11th in Seaside. Malyssa advised the Board members to reach out to her as soon as possible if they would like to attend.
- **OCEAN (Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network) Conference:** The conference will be held April 16-18th in Sunriver.

BOARD REPORTS

- Jeff mentioned that he observed the final hours of the culvert on Apiary Rd. before the road was washed out. He explained that there was a lot of water over the top that went into the Clatskanie River, adding that there had to have been about a dump truck-sized load of dirt that he saw go into the water as well. He spoke with someone from the Public Works Department who explained that they originally had a plan to fix the area but that there was a four-month waiting period with the Corps of Engineers to obtain the appropriate permit. Discussion was held.

Motion Eagle/Busch to adjourn the meeting. **Approved Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:33 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: *Jennifer Chavez*
Jennifer Chavez, Operations Coordinator