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**Minutes of the
Columbia SWCD Board of Directors
Meeting August 20, 2025**

Directors Present:

Michael Calhoun, Chair
Debra Brimacombe, Vice Chair
Bill Eagle, Treasurer
Paul Gibbons, Secretary
Dave Freytag, Director
Jason Busch, Director

Associate Directors:

Rachell Meyers, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council
Alison Charbonneau
David Taylor

CSWCD Staff:

Taylor Murray, District Manager (via Zoom)
Rebekah Gaxiola, Resource Conservationist

Public:

Claudia Eagle
Julia Rutherford
Rachael Barry, Lower Columbia River Watershed Council
Ashley Stanley, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

Hannah Isaacs, District Conservationist

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR BOARD MEETING: 5:02 PM

Strategic Planning Presentation with Amy Stork: Amy introduced herself to the board. She presented slides of her process for the strategic plan, highlighting the elements of a strategic plan and the process and timeline she expects for the Columbia SWCD.

Amy also asked that each board member provide at least one question that they hope the strategic planning process can answer, and their hope for how the plan will be used. Discussion was held.

Prior Month's Minutes: Bill moved, and Paul seconded a motion to approve the Minutes from the Board meeting on 6-18-25 as presented. **Approved Motion passed.**

Vote Record: Approve May 21, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

Director	Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Motion	Seconded
Paul Gibbons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dave Freytag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Debra Brimacombe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Bill Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Michael Calhoun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Financial Report: Bill explained that there are reports for both June and July. He read both Treasurer's reports aloud.

Bill moved, and Dave seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports from 6-30-25 and 7-31-25. **Approved Motion passed.**

- **LCRWC (Lower Columbia River Watershed Council):** Rachael Barry expressed her excitement that the council is continuing to build momentum. She explained that the council did a stakeholder mapping exercise at their July meeting, which is hoped to help the council target engagement moving forward. She added that the council held a celebration last week and thanked partners for attending. Through assistance from the Columbia SWCD, the LCRWC has decided to become the Lower Columbia region’s small grant administrator for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, which Rachael is excited about.

Jason arrived (via Zoom)

OLD BUSINESS

- **Strategic Planning:** Taylor explained that the topic was left on the agenda in case the board wanted to discuss Amy’s presentation or the possibility of an overnight stay/Saturday morning meeting. Paul expressed interest in the committee having the discussion first at their meeting next week. Taylor agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Committee Selections:** A copy of the current committees and members was provided to the board, associate directors, and partners via email ahead of the board meeting, with the hope that there would be more engagement and diversity amongst the committees. Taylor explained that people can be added/removed from current committees, but reminded the board that having 4 or more board members on a committee would constitute a public board meeting. Paul advised that the Strategic Planning Committee be a standing committee, rather than ad hoc, since the document will be considered a living document. **Paul moved, and Bill seconded a motion to change the Strategic Planning Committee to a standing committee. Approved Motion passed.**

Vote Record: To approve changing the Strategic Planning Committee from ad hoc to a standing committee

Director	Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Motion	Seconded
Paul Gibbons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Jason Busch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Dave Freytag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Debra Brimacombe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Bill Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Calhoun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Jason Busch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Rachell Meyers explained that she would be willing to sit on two committees, asking if the Board had a preference. The strategic planning and policy committees were recommended.

Deb asked if the contract committee was absorbed into the policy committee, adding that if so, she would like to see David Taylor on the committee. He agreed.

Paul expressed his interest in joining the personnel committee, adding that this would put 4 board members on the committee. Deb explained that she would be interested in stepping down, but not for a few months. Bill explained that there can be 4 board members, but that the meetings will need to be public, and minutes will need to be taken. Brief discussion was held. Paul joined the committee, with members understanding that upcoming meetings will need to meet public meeting laws.

Deb suggested adding “Board Committee Reports” to the board agendas when appropriate.

Hannah would like to join the building/maintenance committee.

Jason left the meeting

Rachael Barry volunteered to serve on the Budget Committee.

- **Cyber Attack:** Taylor updated the board on the recent cyber-attack that the District has been dealing with, which stemmed from Malysa’s email. He explained that the District has instigated its Cybersecurity insurance, which will provide an attorney and forensic team. Currently, it appears to

have only affected Malysa's account. The firm, through the insurance, will perform \$10k worth of work, though the District will only be responsible for the \$1,000 deductible. Both the District's IT department and the firm have reassured that other staff's accounts are safe. The firm will also be reaching out to all accounts that may have received an email posing as Malysa.

- **Engineering Contract:** The board received a copy of the engineering contract for the Conyers Creek project with Waterways Consulting, Inc for \$67,500.
Bill moved, and Deb seconded a motion to approve Taylor to sign the contract. **Approved Motion passed.**

Vote Record: To approve the engineering contract to be signed

Director	Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Motion	Seconded
Paul Gibbons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Jason Busch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Dave Freytag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Debra Brimacombe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bill Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Michael Calhoun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

- **Meeting with Senator Merkley's Rep.:** Taylor shared that he had the opportunity to speak at a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting in Clatskanie, and after that meeting, he met with a rep from Senator Merkley's office. He explained what the District does and was also informed of a new funding opportunity. He added that the rep is in town every few weeks and offered to invite the field rep for Senator Wyden for a joint meeting. He noted that it is nice to have a contact within the senatorial staff to keep us relevant at the national level.

BOARD REPORTS

- Bill shared that he and Dave attended the recent Coffee and Commerce meeting, wearing their CSWCD name tags, though they didn't have a chance to speak to who they were there representing.
- Paul reported that the Policeman's Helmet treatment on Conyer's Creek has proven to be incredibly effective. It was hand-pulled last year, with only a few plants that came back this year that were pulled.
- Deb shared that, in cooperation with the St. Helens Public Library, OSU Master Gardeners, and the SBWC, there was a native seed workshop that had 23 people in attendance. The council also donated seeds, so each attendee did not go home empty-handed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:12 PM

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