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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.

APPROVED 2.15.23

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.

NRCS REPORT:

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 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.

COMMENTS:

- 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.
- Crystalyne 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.

