

Monday, March 14, 2022; 6:00-7:00 PM
Phone: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 844 6825 0202
Passcode: 640956



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance

Board Members Present: Nate Johnson, Bob Morris, Kerry Hastings, Jerry Paul, Eliza Mason, Gram Trask, Faye Yoshihara (Emeritus)

Board Members Absent: Henry Storch

Associate Directors Present: Marcella Henkels, Rana Foster

Staff Present: Holly Crosson, Michael Ahr, Donna Schmitz, Teresa Matteson, Linda Lovett (minutes)

Others Present: Amy Kaiser (NRCS)

Call to Order

[Johnson] 6:01 pm

Introductions, Public Comments, Announcements, Additions/Changes to Agenda

Nate asked to add a recap of the March 9 informal meeting and a question about the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve draft board meeting Minutes – February 14, 2022:** Discussion: none
- **Approve Financials for 1/31/22;** Discussion: none
- **Approve Budget Resolution No. FY2021-2022-10: \$11,319 for Farm Riparian and Prairie Restoration Project - OWEB Small Grant No. 09-22-001-20218;** Discussion: none

MOTION to approve Consent Agenda: Bob/Eliza (vote 5/ 5)

REGULAR AGENDA

Informal Meeting

Nate provided a recap of the meeting; one of the main themes was oak restoration. Discussion included ways to collaborate with others doing this work (e.g., NRCS) and to encourage oak planting, such as by incorporating an acorn give-away into the native plant sale, using the forest tax deferral to incentivize planting, working with schools for children to plant acorns. Also discussed specific trees that are meaningful to us as a theme for blog posts. Participants agreed the meeting was a good way to brainstorm and discuss ideas outside of board meetings and that we should consider doing such meetings quarterly.

BSWCD's role in Agricultural Water Quality (ODA Capacity Funding including Scope of Work and Focus Area, Strategic Implementation Area/SIA)

Donna gave a presentation (see slides attached) on how the District helps Benton County landowners and the Oregon Department of Agriculture comply with Senate Bill 1010 (1993) regarding agricultural water quality. The statute prohibits: 1) polluting waters of the state; 2) permitting vegetation to grow along perennial streams. She shared: examples of non-compliance; history of District work, including grants received/funding and Scope of Work Tasks related to the AWQ Area Plan; process for complaints and ODA compliance site visits; implementation areas; challenges in Benton County; and federal, state, and local partners. There will be a biennial review of the AWQ rules in the fall of 2022 that will be presented to ODA.

Bee Buddy Update

Jerry attended a native bee conference related to Oregon's state-wide bee survey. Pollinators are so important to Oregon, in March the Governor gave \$750k to the Oregon Bee Atlas project. Oregon is in the forefront on this issue, but requests from other states are overworking Bee Atlas staff, so they are having to decline giving assistance. About 600 species have been identified in the state so far and expect to find about 800 total. Jerry is transitioning Bee Buddies to be an education

All documents referenced in these minutes are a part of the official record and can be distributed upon request.

program, as detailed in his report in the packet. This year the District offered all the boxes for sale, and they sold quickly. The program now is for people to attend two educational events, one in March when the boxes are distributed and one in May in Soap Creek and Monroe. In October will train people how to clean boxes. Eliza and Faye are helping with training. Six boxes were donated to College Hill, which will sell them and distribute information at their farm stand. Expect to bring in \$1400 with sale of boxes. Eliza said Monroe has a small, but growing group of people excited about getting hands-on experience. Faye said many of her Soap Creek neighbors had boxes already, but they will share ideas. Two boxes that were donated to OSU's Empty Bowls auction were bought as projects for kids and grandkids, so the project is reaching the next generation.

Linn-Benton Salmon Watch Support Letter

Holly wanted the board to see the letter we received. She has assured Mike Vernon that we would continue to assist with Salmon Watch.

Communications position; staff capacity - Native Plant Sale & Conservation Education and Outreach; use of Reserve Funds

Holly is finalizing the draft job description. She will share it with staff, HR Answers, and the attorney, and then it will go to the Personnel and Finance Committee on March 30. The main change is to focus on communications and marketing. NPS coordination will not be a requirement because that may be a barrier to getting a candidate with the other skills that we want. The District will contract with Deb Merchant to do interim communications tasks before we hire a new person.

We will continue to do the NPS but may contract it out or create a temporary position. Holly noted that the Program Reserve Fund has about \$80k for programs and the Reserve for Future Expenditures is up to \$233,959. We could use some of these funds in FY23 to hire someone for the plant sale. Holly needs to know soon because she is working on the FY23 budget.

At the February meeting it was suggested that we form a committee to work on the NPS year-round. Marcella and Nate are interested in participating. It could also include plant sale volunteers. Jerry noted that we need to consider the staff time it would take to oversee a contractor and that we might have too many projects if we don't have staff capacity. We need to examine this as part of our strategic plan. Nate asked directors to consider this information along with what Teresa provided in February and suggested having another NPS discussion at the April board meeting.

Discuss which documents are used by Directors on the Board webpages

About half of the directors have used the website to access documents. There was general agreement that it is helpful, especially for new board and staff, to have this as an archive. Specific documents to retain and keep up to date are the budget, strategic plan, personnel manual, the SWCD Guidebook, and current and previous year meeting packets. It is not necessary to include resolutions. It would also be helpful to have a more robust, current calendar to keep directors informed about events staff are involved in. Deb Merchant will update the page as part of her contract, and we can revisit the topic at future board meetings as needed.

Budget for TA grant, Nate addition to agenda

Nate asked about an expenditure for the Soil Quality Program that he saw in the financials. Teresa shared her spreadsheet for tracking the TA grant for soil health. Over two years it is in addition to what is in the Community Conservation Program. Holly suggested looking at LB forms to see a detailed breakdown of the budget, and Jerry added that the check register is a good way to see what we're writing checks for.

Meeting Adjourned

[Johnson] 7:34 pm