

Monday, October 12, 2021; 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: Bob Morris, Kerry Hastings, Jerry Paul, Eliza Mason, Henry Storch

Board Members Absent: Faye Yoshihara, Graham Trask

Associate Directors Present: Rana Foster, Nate Johnson

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

Others Present: Lexi Gardner (Acting District Conservationist, NRCS), David Barron (Associate Director candidate)

Call to Order

[Morris] 6:01 pm

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

There were introductions all around since Lexi and David were first-time attendees.

Additions/Changes to Agenda

Holly asked for an addition: Request the board appoint her as the QuickBooks Primary Administrator and remove Jennifer Floro, who has not worked at the District since 2015, from the account. QuickBooks requires these changes to be in the draft October board meeting minutes to take the action.

Jerry recommended putting this in the Consent Agenda. Jerry also asked to pull the resolution on the George Ice grant from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve draft board meeting Minutes – September 13, 2021:** Discussion: none
- **Approve Financials for 8/31/21;** Discussion: none
- **Accept Board Member and Officer job descriptions;** Discussion: none
- **Adopt Resolution No. FY2021-2022-04 establishing the date of the Annual Meeting in 2022;** Discussion: none
- **Adopt Resolution No. FY2021-2022-05 to add \$1,750 to the FY22 General Fund budget for returned security deposit from prior lease of office space at 5th and Monroe;** Discussion: none

MOTION to approve Consent Agenda with addition of Holly Crosson as QuickBooks Primary Administrator, removal of Jennifer Floro from QuickBooks account, and pulling Resolution No. FY2021-2022-06: Jerry/Henry (vote 5 / 5)

- **Adopt Resolution No. FY2021-2022-06 to add \$8,000 to the FY22 Project Fund budget for George Ice grant/private donation for UMC SIA station 2 equipment/supplies:** Discussion:

Teresa provided detail on the project for the George Ice grant, the Upper Muddy Creek Strategic Implementation Area (UMC SIA). Station #2 will be located on George Ice's property. It is one of four stations where the District will be monitoring water quality. George donated \$8,000 for the equipment that will be on his property. This enabled an upgrade of the whole system to a product called In-Situ Aqua Troll, which will be placed in the streams to monitor dissolved oxygen and conductivity. Turbidity will also be monitored at George's site. He will have telemetry so that he can log in to his computer and see what is going on at his station. The other stations will have sensors in the streams that connect via Bluetooth. George will put in a stream-flow station to measure velocity and amount of water going through. Grab samples from streams will go to Edge Analytical Laboratory. Samples from Hammer Creek will also be monitored for E. coli and phosphorous because of concerns about livestock entering creek and fertilizer residue.

MOTION to approve Resolution No. FY2021-2022-06: Jerry / Eliza (vote 5 / 5)

REGULAR AGENDA

Appoint David Barron as Associate Director

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

Henry introduced David, whom he has known for about 10 years. Dave has a small farm where he has chickens and grows vegetables. His professional background is in firefighting/emergency response. Henry has been seeking a Zone 1 replacement but wants to remain an associate director if Dave moves on to the board. Dave learned about the District from Henry and his neighbor who did a stream restoration project with the District.

MOTION to appoint David Barron as Associate Director: Henry / Kerry (vote 5 / 5)

Overview of BSWCD's Invasive Species Program

Michael gave a presentation covering the definition of invasive species, the invasion curve, ODA "A" list weeds in Benton County, weed treatment, and integrated pest management. He also talked about the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) for Benton County and the District's designation as the County's weed entity, which makes us eligible for Oregon Weed Board funds. In response to questions, Michael explained that the program does cover invasive insects and animals (e.g., Asian longhorned beetles, emerald ash borer, nutria) and that there is money for contractor work to help property owners. We can use Weed Board funding to treat designated weeds for residents and in the public right of way. He is not aware of new information on controlling false brome, but we are still trying to control it if it is in sensitive habitat.

Update on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Program

Michael said the NRCS told us several weeks ago that their workload is light enough to be able to handle the program in house during the next grant funding cycle. We have done this program since 2012 in partnership with Linn SWCD, but demand for projects has fallen. Donna does several each year, but she has many other job responsibilities as well. We don't have a CREP technician that can do a lot of contracts, so we may be less of a fit for the grant from OWEB's perspective. There may be opportunities to partner with other organizations on CREP projects in the future.

Bob wondered why fewer people want to do CREP projects. Michael said it can be a tough sell if someone has high-quality farmland and it is more beneficial financially to farm the land than to plant shrubs and trees. The program has been around for a long time, so we have probably picked the low-hanging fruit. Finally, it is difficult to do outreach because we may not have the staff for the contracts if there is a lot of interest.

Donna estimated that the District would bring in \$4,000 in FY22, but this quarter will ask for \$4,500 and probably get another \$1,000 after that. We will be able to fulfill what we had estimated for this budget year. Holly added that it has been nice to have CREP funds for our budget, but hopefully will be able to make up the income elsewhere.

Jerry mentioned that he is on the Mid-Willamette Small Grant team, which is another OWEB program. He would like to see the District's conservation planners work with this grant program so smaller landowners can do some of the same things that the CREP program has done. Maybe we can look at our watersheds and develop the small grant program in place of the CREP program.

Lexi said the NRCS workload fluctuates from year to year, so if it increases in the future, they may go back to working with districts. NRCS appreciates the help over the years from Donna and Deb Paul of Linn SWCD.

Final Comments

Eliza mentioned that the City of Monroe was planning to sell two acres known as Kyle Springs, which it used to use as a water source. Rana wrote a letter to the City Council asking them not to sell to a lumber company that would probably clear cut the old growth. Kerry also has been involved in making a case for Monroe to keep the property as a conservation area or historic site. She suggested the District look at it to see whether there are important species or other reasons for the City to retain ownership.

Meeting Adjourned

[Morris] 7:02 pm