

Monday, May 4, 2020; 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Zoom Video Conference: <https://zoom.us/join>
Phone: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 273-258-688
Password: 019593



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance

Board Members Present: Faye Yoshihara, Jerry Paul, Bob Morris, Henry Storch, Eliza Mason, Graham Trask

Board Members Absent: Larry Lee

Associate Directors Present:

Associate Directors Absent: Rana Foster, Mark Taratoot

Staff Present: Holly Crosson, Laura Brown, Heath Keirstead, Linda Lovett (minutes), Teresa Matteson, Donna Schmitz

Staff Absent:

Others Present: Sandi Hiatt, SWCD Grants Administrative Officer, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Others Absent: Amy Kaiser/NRCS

Call to Order

[Yoshihara] 6:03 pm

Introductions, Public Comments, Announcements

- Holly: Linda passed her six-month mark, so is now a regular employee
- Eliza: Correction to Calendar item: the Monroe Farmer's Market is on 99, not Court Street

Additions/Changes to Agenda

- None

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve Draft Minutes from April 6, 2020 Board Meeting;** Discussion: Faye – Susanna is no longer an Associate Director, so her name should be deleted.
- **Approve Financials (3/31/20);** Discussion: none
- **Adopt Budget Resolution FY2019-2020-14 - \$157,527 from Bonneville Power Administration for Willamette FIP Effectiveness Monitoring Phase 4: Data Collection and Reporting Program;** Discussion: none
- **Approve FY21 Annual Workplan;** Discussion: Faye thanked staff for all the work that went into the work plan and expressed hope that it can be accomplished given the COVID-19 situation.

Approve Consent Agenda with correction to April minutes; MOTION/2nd: Henry/Jerry; (Unanimous 6/6)

REGULAR AGENDA

Update on ODA Funding/SWCD Program; Sandi Hiatt, ODA Grants Administrative Officer

Sandi: Jo Morgan, ODA Water Quality Specialist for the Willamette Region will retire at end of May. ODA has a hiring freeze, so SWCD Operations Specialist Eric Nusbaum and Riparian Specialist Cheryl Hummon will assume Jo's duties for now. Both should receive our agendas and minutes. Also, elections are coming up, but county elections offices are currently closed. She will send out information about how to collect signatures and submit petitions for Director positions.

Discussion: Holly asked about the ODA budget; heard that we will get all funding expected for FY20-21, but what about next biennium? How might we prepare given revenue losses due to COVID-19? Sandi said current grants are o.k. but she has not heard of OWEB's plans for any grants not approved or funds allocated. All she has heard is that state agencies are required to turn in budgets showing 8.5% cost/staff reduction. Faye noted that all Directors except Graham and Larry are up for reelection. Jerry, Henry, Bob, Faye, Eliza confirmed plans to run. Sandi will email confirmation about the positions up for election; please do not publish until she does.

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

NRCS/Staff Reports

Holly: Reviewing health plan info from Barker-Uerlings and SDAO; closing in on a decision for next year. Keeping up with COVID-19 information, revising contracting rules due to legislative changes, getting HR and legal review for new performance appraisal. Starting this week will be working with Willamette River Network on branding: reviewing/providing feedback on draft values, logo, and name.

Donna: Doing CREP work and some site visits. Closing the Crestmont grant and writing the final report.

Laura: Focused on oblong spurge outreach; found one of the largest spurge sites in the state—about half an acre—through outreach. Signing up private landowners and treating sites by hand pulling or using herbicide. Submitted a grant proposal to work with landowners on locating high-impact salmon habitat on the Willamette. Doing “Invasives in Your Backyard” Facebook Live on May 6.

Teresa: Submitted OWEB Technical Assistance grant final report. Working on the website and taking photos. Will be doing a site visit for forage assessment with Amy.

Heath: Update of water weed guide is on the website and at the printers. Working with Finley Refuge on a Wednesday’s virtual tour for Natural Areas Action week. Creating wish list of plants for Native Plant Sale, sending weekly e-news, started new book review feature on the blog to engage the community.

Linda: Helping Holly with operations cash flow report, LB forms, and meetings. Continuing to develop electronic processes to replace paper ones, such as creating fillable forms for check requests and credit card receipts.

Director Reports

Bob: Working on invasive weed eradication at home, bee project.

Jerry: Answering questions on mason bees; because people are staying home, they are watching boxes more. Working with landowners interested in collections done on property with Oregon bee Atlas. Waiting a week for property to come into bloom. Want to see if our restoration programs helping bees.

Grahm: Working on the farm and oak prairie, getting ready for planting this fall.

Henry: Working with bees, making packages for wholesale bee account in Portland. Noted news about Asiatic hornet that appeared on Vancouver Island, then in Blaine, WA. He breeds his bees to kill off such invasives, but most domesticated bees have defensive behavior bred out of them.

Eliza: Happy that feral honeybee hive has woken; she thought it had died. Opening store and planting fields.

Faye: Working on property, noticing more wildlife: had eight elk in her pond and neighbor had mink.

Confluence Update: Architecture Committee and DEI process

Heath: The committee working on branding for the collaborative aims to be done by the end of the school term. Moving forward with EDI work, but at a slower pace because of COVID-19: rescheduling things for fall and doing other trainings virtually. Working on collaborative fund sharing and distribution.

Holly: Attended March and April meetings, where the financial plan for operational costs was discussed. All numbers are in draft, but preliminary BSWCD rent estimate based on square footage was substantially more than what we now pay. Will form another committee to use the Equity Committee’s process for divvying up the rent for some of the circulation area amongst the whole group. Holly also raised potential Confluence design changes to consider in light of COVID-19: air filtration system, configuration of interior space for physical distancing requirements, reducing available touch surfaces, etc.

Jerry: Need to talk about all these issues. Design changes likely to slow construction and we can’t do a capital campaign in the current economic environment.

Holly: The required 10-year review of the building fund reserve is on the agenda for the June board meeting. The purpose of the fund is to purchase a building or land but the board can broaden the fund purpose at any time.

Final Comments

Faye: For now the board will continue to receive e-packets, but the Budget Committee will receive hard copy. Request that Zoom info be sent in an email separate from the packet to make it easier to find and access.

Meeting Adjourned

[Yoshihara] 6:58 pm