

Monday, November 8, 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: Faye Yoshihara, Graham Trask, Bob Morris, Jerry Paul, Eliza Mason, Henry Storch

Board Members Absent: Kerry Hastings

Associate Directors Present: Nate Johnson, David Barron, Marcella Henkels, Rana Foster

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

Others Present: Amy Kaiser, Erik Swartzendruber (public, presenter)

### Call to Order

[Yoshihara] 6:00 pm

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

There were introductions all around since Erik was a first-time attendee.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve draft board meeting Minutes – October 12, 2021:** Discussion: none
- **Approve Financials for 9/31/21;** Discussion: none
- **Adopt revised Travel Policy;** Discussion: none

MOTION to approve Consent Agenda: Bob/Eliza (vote 6/6)

### Director Check-in

Jerry: Cleaned 7500 mason bee cocoons for Bee Buddy program and added another 2200 from his property and neighbors for almost 10,000 cocoons. Helping rehab of Willamette Grange.

Bob: Getting garden ready for winter; attended webinar about how to talk to people about climate change.

Eliza: Got cover crop in; attended soil webinar put on by Xerces Society.

Graham: Finished busy stream restoration season; now in Montana on vacation.

Henry: Wrapping up bee season, shipping bees to California to decrease overhead.

Nate: Worked with Rana Foster, Aubrey Cloud from Marys River Watershed Council, and 20-30 other volunteers on camas rescue; used tractor and potato digger to dig bulbs, then volunteers bagged them for relocation. On November 9, presenting on dry farming to Friends of Family Farmer InFARMation series on climate change.

Marcella: Recently traveled to southern Utah; attended Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network's climate resilience toolbox, which provided case studies of how farmers in Oregon are adapting to climate change.

Amy: NRCS has an EQIP application deadline November 19. There is only one sign up this fiscal year, the next will be fall of 2022. NRCS will hold a meeting to discuss a Regional Conservation Partnership Program for prescribed grazing within the oak savannah habitat project area. Jerry commended the NRCS newsletter for links to the master plan and what's going on in Benton County.

Faye: Working with Luckiamute Watershed Council; hosted two sold-out bird walks, which provided great opportunity to see how the watershed council operates.

David: Passed exam for Fire Inspector 1, an international certification for fire code.

### REGULAR AGENDA

#### **Discuss authority and role of SWCDs to weigh in on County land use issues; developing/updating clear policy and procedure for Board to follow Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)**

Faye: Issues such as Coffin Butte landfill expansion and Kyle Springs in Monroe can make it seem like public decisions are being made in a piecemeal manner. BSWCD historically has remained neutral, and the 2009 policy (in packet) is written in a

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

way that makes it easy to do so. Should we revise the policy to identify key issues on which we might take positions, possibly in alignment with OACD?

Holly said Eric Nusbaum told her there is variety in what districts are doing. Some comment frequently, others on a case-by-case basis, while some have staff do technical reviews but don't take a position. Directors have authority to weigh in on issues related to strategic priorities, but an individual director must have permission from the full board to speak on its behalf. Because directors change, Eric recommends revisiting policies at least every 10 years.

Discussion: Only Henry and Jerry were on the board in 2009. Linn SWCD sought BSWCD support for a Willamette River channel maintenance project and wanted an immediate decision. However, the BSWCD felt it needed a policy that allowed time for research without being pressed to decide when something was first presented at a board meeting. Rather than get into specific land use issues, the policy outlines a general process for making decisions. The rationale for staying neutral was to avoid potentially dividing the board.

Board consensus was to revisit the policy. When an issue directly affects the environment and citizens we represent (e.g., Coffin Butte), the board should take a position. Even if there are differences among board members, it is not unhealthy to discuss contentious issues. Faye and Holly will review the 2009 policy and OACD position statements. Board will discuss at a future meeting. It may align with the strategic planning process.

**Presentation: Regenerative Landscaping: Urban Soil Conservation – Erik Swartzendruber, WVRLG**

Teresa introduced Erik, with whom she has been working on urban soil conservation since 2017. Erik had the idea to promote regenerative landscaping as a way for urban residents to help with the climate crisis. He pulled together a group of like-minded landscape professionals with a goal of inspiring people to fill their yards with plants, especially natives. Teresa and Erik outlined the group's accomplishments, including the C-Squesters project recognizing local landscapes that focus on soil sequestration, presentations, webinars, a website, and the Central Park regenerative garden (see slides).

**MOTION to approve OACD election ballot as written: Eliza/Jerry 6/6**

**Other Announcements**

Faye announced that she will step off the board in January after the annual meeting. Nate Johnson has agreed to join the board as a director and board chair. Nate has been very active in the past year as an Associate Director. Faye will ask the board to appoint her as an Emeritus Director until the end of the fiscal year to help with the transition. Bob has agreed to be appointed to Faye's Zone 2 position, which frees up At-large 1 for Nate's appointment in that position. Bob will step down on December 31, 2022, and Marcella potentially will be appointed to his spot and complete the Zone 2 Director term. Bob will still be around as an advocate for the District.

Nate said he is honored to work with everyone on the board and has enjoyed learning about all the avenues of conservation that people are working on. He looks forward to working with everyone, especially on strategic planning, and has been inspired by Faye's example as board chair in his year as an associate director.

Faye acknowledged staff milestones that Holly reported on in her staff report: Michael (passed 6 months mark, so now a regular employee), Linda (2 years), Donna (22 years).

**Meeting Adjourned**

**[Yoshihara] 7:07 pm**