

Monday, September 12, 2022; 6:00-7:30 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, Jerry Paul, Henry Storch, Eliza Mason, Faye Yoshihara (Emeritus)

Board Members Absent: Kerry Hastings, Graham Trask

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

Staff Present: Michael Ahr, Teresa Matteson, Donna Schmitz, (Holly Crosson absent), Sara Roberts

Others Present: Deb Merchant (minutes), Amy Kaiser (NRCS), Aubrey Cloud

Call to Order

[Johnson] 6:03 pm

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

Additions to agenda: Sunbow Farm hosting 50th year celebration 23rd/24th September as open house and dinner presentation at Marys River Grange (nominal fee). Nate will email notice with all details.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve draft minutes from July 11, 2022 Board Meeting:** Discussion: none
- **Approve Financials for 6/30/22 and 7/31/22:** Discussion: none
- **Approve Resolution #FY2022-2023-02:** Discussion: none
- **Adopt Heat Illness Prevention Policy:** Discussion: none
- **Adopt Wildfire Smoke Policy:** Discussion: none

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda: Nick Johnson/Eliza Mason (vote 5/5);

REGULAR AGENDA

- Michael informed board about Holly's absence (she returns October) and staff coverage.

Introduce Sara Roberts, Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator

- Strong background in environmental education
- Sara noted that in her first few months, she is prioritizing her work on Salmon Watch and also helping quite a bit with the native bulb and seed sale.

Round of all director introductions.

Approve Resolution #FY2022-2023-01: Extend Workers' Compensation Insurance to Volunteers

Discussion: Michael provided background describing how interns assist the District. Additional insurance coverage while in the field would protect volunteer risks regardless of personal/academic affiliation (i.e., OSU grad student). Legal counsel reviewed and supports additional coverage.

Is this one of those things where x number of volunteers are covered? Yes, need to identify approximately how many individuals, projects and responsibilities.

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

Does this tie into any mission/vision/values process? Yes, it provides greater opportunity for anyone to volunteer and/or intern.

Are there benchmarks associated with mission/vision/values? Can we identify correlation between this endeavor and providing insurance coverage? Seems so, yes.

Does the extended coverage include events such as Native Plant Sales? Yes, but we would need to document number of hours and people (many) against one intern for the year.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda: Bob Morris/Eliza Mason (vote 5/5)

Year-end Financial Review FY2021-2022

August typically provides year-end reports – please see the August packet (page 13) for which there was no Board meeting. Taxes levied a bit higher than budgeted and higher than prior year. Fee-for-Service revenue and Native Plant Sales revenue higher than anticipated, along with project-specific grants. Graphs illustrate both revenue and expenses for general operations and projects. Some grant funding shifted from last year to this fiscal year. A good majority of project funds are used to hire contractors.

Questions: Nate; given some reliance on tax revenue, how did, for example, home values in 2008 impact District revenue? Revenue growth slowed, but didn't stop or reduce. Benton County takes samples of assessments (not all homes) and applies an average rate to tax revenue. Southtown enhancements will benefit all districts receiving Benton Cty. Revenue.

Native Bulb Sale Update

Volunteers are needed –Michael will email link to Board and meeting attendees with online sign-up form. No pre-orders; onsite only during the festival. Late September 2022 online ordering is planned for February 2023 plant pick-up at Benton Cty. Fairgrounds.

Benton County Floodplain Permit and Activities

Donna Schmitz: FEMA has new permit requirements that impact development permit applications. Permits are now designed to reduce flood hazard risk and improve communications, and update the public. Benton Cty. Is one of only seven Oregon counties to receive reduced FEMA insurance premiums. Floodplain permit information, services and resources are available at Benton County, Community Development. Plan ahead, expect time and expenses to impact District restoration projects.

Aubrey: information gathered at CONNECT Conference may prove meaningful to District projects taking place in certain zones. Benton Cty. Has no natural resource staff person to navigate project issues. Good opportunity for community input to inform project solutions.

October Meeting Date

Next regular date is a Holiday.

MOTION: shift next meeting to Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 6pm – 7:30pm. Nate Johnson/Bob Morris (vote 5/5)

Staff Reports

Michael reviewed Ludwigia, Yellow Floating Heart identification and partnerships to treat (pulls, chemical) and monitor. Teresa, Aubrey, and Henry reviewed various blackberry listed in staff reports. Sara reviewed watershed council grant opportunity posted. Amy reviewed EQIP funding opportunities. BSWCD logos as exposure.

Other Board Business

None

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Meeting Adjourned
[Johnson] 7:37 pm