

Monday, March 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, Bob Morris, Henry Storch, Jerry Paul, Eliza Mason, Kerry Hastings, Graham Trask

Board Members Absent:

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

Associate Directors Absent: Sierra Linnan Smith

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

Others Present: Amy Kaiser/NRCS

Others Absent: Eric Nusbaum/ODA

### Call to Order

[Yoshihara] 6:00 pm

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

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve draft Minutes – February 8, 2021;** Discussion: none
- **Approve Financials (1/31/21);** Discussion: none
- **Staff telework stipend (\$75) for March 2021;** Discussion: none
- **Approve FY2021-2022 Budget Calendar;** Discussion: none

MOTION to approve Consent Agenda /2nd: Graham/Bob (Unanimous 7/7)

#### REGULAR AGENDA

##### **NRCS/Staff Reports (Kaiser, Crosson, Schmitz, Matteson, Keirstead, Lovett)**

Amy: Held the Benton County local work group meeting on Feb 23; working on forest strategy, hazelnut strategy; EQIP Sign-up #2 deadline April 16.

Holly: Michael Ahr will be starting as the Natural Resource Conservation Program Manager on April 12; he will work from Portland with trips to Corvallis but plans to move here by summer. Also working on strategic planning.

Donna: Will defer to staff report.

Teresa: Will defer to the update on the plant sale.

Heath: Working on Bee Buddies; seeking volunteers to help with website, ~5-8 hours.

Linda: Working on Michael's onboarding, getting operational numbers for budget, move planning.

##### **Director Reports**

Jerry: Attended OWEB Small Grant Program meeting, Greenbelt's annual meeting, and IAE lecture on pollinators.

Kerry: Attended ODA training for SWCD board members. Will do a site visit with Donna and Teresa on Monday.

Eliza: Attended a virtual conference on dry farming; getting ready to open store in April.

Henry: Working, not much new to report.

Graham: Farming and harvesting trees for fish; following up on Laura's work at Collins Bay, checking water levels to see if the river is low enough to work on a beaver deceiver.

Bob: Also attended IAE and Greenbelt meetings; pulling weeds at home.

Marcella: Attended ODA Director training; volunteered for two weeks with the Wetlands Conservancy surveying sites for amphibians; listening to Arts Center series on climate change.

Rana: Working on camas salvage project.

Nate: Attended dry farming conference and NRCS work group; put up barn owl box. Fighting weeds and high population of voles at Sunbow that are burrowing under landscape fabric into the greenhouse.

Faye: Also attended ODA board member training.

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

**Review checklist and collect signatures for NRCS “Civil Rights for Partners” document (10 minutes)**

Amy asked if there were questions about the document. Directors need to review and sign because SWCDs help with USDA programs and outreach. Linda emailed the signature form for directors to e-sign and will forward them to Amy.

**2021 Native Plant Sale highlights**

Heath shared PowerPoint slides reviewing all the steps in the plant sale acknowledging the efforts of the board, staff, and volunteers that made it a success. The sale had a total of 377 orders. The 163 plants that did not sell were donated to North Santiam Watershed Council to help with restoration of areas affected by forest fires.

**DEIJ update**

BSWCD directors and staff will have a special meeting (March 29 from 6:00-7:00pm) with consultant Yee Won to review the draft Equity Lens. There will be a vote to adopt the Equity Lens at the April 12 board meeting, so it is important to understand what it is and how it will help with strategic planning to ensure goals and strategies align with values of DEIJ.

**Office Move**

Holly and Jerry have looked at eight potential office spaces. It does not make sense to stay where we are and we hope eventually to be in The Confluence, but it is difficult to plan without knowing the cost of being in the Confluence building. What can we do now to save money while maintaining the option to have a presence at The Confluence?

Two spaces are possibilities for the short or long term: one next to the museum, co-owned by the founder of Benny’s Doughnuts, and one owned by Catherine Mater on the second floor of the Renaissance building. The “Benny building” was originally a feed store and it still looks like an old building. The space is 1800 sf. The owners would build a shell with storage and IT areas and ADA-compliant bathrooms. There is an upstairs, but it is not usable office space because it is not ADA compliant. Construction can start immediately and completed in six months. The 10-year lease would be triple net. Jerry will meet with the owners on Thursday to see what our costs might be. Lori Stephens drew plans for the space to see how it would work for us and shared drawings with Benny and his partner.

The Renaissance building space is 1200 sf for \$1800/mo. It is ADA accessible, with elevator to the second floor. We can lease for two years without a rent increase, with the possibility to extend. There are two designated parking spaces, a rooftop patio that we can use for special events, locked storage in the basement, and additional storage in the Mater Building. It is available on April 1<sup>st</sup> and Catherine is willing to split the cost for April, May, and June. There is no kitchen, but we could put in a small fridge and microwave.

Discussion:

Pros on the Renaissance building: lower cost may enable us to afford space in The Confluence; no need to use building reserve fund; can sign a two-year lease and extend for longer; adequate as is, with no wait to move in.

Cons: does not have retail storefront presence of Benny’s or The Confluence; public may perceive it as “fancy,” not in keeping with their view of an SWCD; no kitchen; bathrooms are public.

Pros on Benny building: will look more rustic, like The Confluence; will have a bathroom and designated IT area.

Cons: cost may prevent having space in The Confluence; might need to use building reserve fund; 10-year lease.

Henry and Eliza said the Renaissance space seems like a good deal; it is less expensive and would not lock us into long-term lease in an uncertain real estate market. Kerry said we should not rush a decision. Faye agreed that we need more information from Catherine Mater and Benny, but the board seemed to be leaning toward the Renaissance building. Holly will chat with staff about the options. Jerry said if the board wants to go with the Renaissance building, we should let Benny know, but Holly thought Jerry should have the conversation with Benny to learn more about the costs.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**[Yoshihara]** 7:26 pm