

**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020**

Board Members Present: Eldon Jossi Steve VanGrunsven Matt Pihl
Jerry Ward Anna Jesse John McDonald

Others Present: Kelly Dawes, TSWCD Judy Marsh, TSWCD
Aaron Shaw, TSWCD Tyler Pedersen, TSWCD
Juli Waarvik, TSWCD Jessica Wells, NRCS
Randy Lawrence, CWS Casey Blake, Oregon Agriculture in
the Classroom

Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, John McDonald at 6:30 pm.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was accepted.

It was discussed, since the regular April Board Meeting on April 14, 2020, would fall during 2020 Connect that it would be moved to April 7, 2020.

Item 3 – Public Comment

No public comment.

Item 4 – Board Elections

Eldon Jossi moved to elect John McDonald as Chairman. Jerry Ward seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Jerry Ward moved to elect Steve VanGrunsven as Vice Chairman. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Anne Jesse moved to elect Matt Pihl as Secretary. Jerry Ward seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Steve VanGrunsven moved to elect Jerry Ward as Treasurer. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

There was discussion as to why the District nominates its officers in January instead of at the beginning of the fiscal year in July.

Item 5 – Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Kelly Dawes mentioned the two new Education and Conservation Specialists that will be starting on January 21, 2020. This will bring the District to 18 employees.

Kelly reviewed the financial reports. Jerry Ward moved to pay the unpaid bills as of January 13, 2020, in the amount of \$81,659.04. Matt Pihl seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Matt Pihl moved to ratify the pre-approved bills as of December 31, 2019, in the amount of \$166,264.22. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Jerry Ward reviewed the expenses of the credit card charges for December 1 through 31, 2019. Jerry Ward moved to receive the financial statements as of December 31, 2019, as presented. Steve VanGrunsven seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 6 – Partner Reports

Randy Lawrence, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- The cooler is open and has about 690,000 bareroot plants ready to go out to projects. They are scheduled for 846,000 bareroot plants to go through the cooler this year.
- Randy thanked the SWCD staff that came out to help unload the large bareroot orders into the cooler.

Jessica Wells, Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

- The Local Work Group is scheduled for February 26, 2020. It will start a 9:00 am and go to 11:00 am. Jessica asked who else she should invite to the work group.
- The new engineer has been hired and will be starting at the end of February.
- The deadline for program applications is February 21, 2020.
- Most of the calls coming into the NRCS office is for drain tile locations.
- Jessica said the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director position has not been filled. Also, Paul Long one of the FSA Farm Loan Specialist took a job in Salem. Suzanne Hayes the other FSA Farm Loan Specialist is thinking of retiring. Dean Moberg from NRCS will be retiring sometime this spring.
- Training on the new Conservation Desktop program has begun. Still waiting for the CART assessment program.

Item 7 – SWCD Program Reports

No reports were given.

Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports

Contract Committee – Matt Pihl asked Aaron Shaw to explain to the Board both the new IGA with CWS and the new VEGBAC programs. The IGA with CWS has to do with the Urban Handbook. The new VEGBAC program had several changes.

Item 9 – New Business – Weed Board Discussion

Tyler Pedersen explained the pros and cons why the District should become the Washington County Weed Board. The District Board decided they didn't want to be the Washington County Weed Board but would like to have a representative on the Weed Board. After much discussion the Board asked Tyler to do more research and bring his findings back to the Board.

Item 10 – Discussion – Committee Assignments

The list of standing committees was reviewed. Additions of staff members were made to certain committees.

Item 11 – Discussion – Representatives to other Organizations

It was discussed that the Representatives to other Organizations is no longer needed.

Item 12 – Discussion - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Juli Waarvik explained that the District has created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to investigate how well the District is doing compared to other Districts in the state. Juli also has sent out a D5's Self-Assessment for Foundation Diversity, Equity & Inclusion survey for all staff members to fill out. Juli said the results showed that we are not doing as well as we should be. Juli explained how we could improve the District standing. Juli was asked to create a budget for training of staff and directors for next fiscal year. Eldon Jossi asked Juli to email the whole Board the D5's Self-Assessment for Foundation Diversity, Equity & Inclusion survey to review. The Board asked Juli to come to the February Board Meeting with more information.

Item 13 – Discussion - OACD Articles of Incorporation

Before voting on the OACD Article of Incorporation Matt Pihl asked John McDonald to explain what the changes mean. After some discussion, the vote was taken. Voting yes in favor of the OACD Articles of Incorporation are Eldon Jossi, Jerry Ward, Steve VanGrunsvan, Anna Jesse, John McDonald, Matt Pihl. Thomas Dierickx was absent. Judy Marsh will send a letter to OACD with the results.

Item 14 – Discussion - Strategic Planning - progress update, timeline, and director expectations

John McDonald distributed a strategic work plan and a Strategic Planning Worksheet to all Directors. John reviewed the schedule that has benchmarks which need to be met to achieve the new Five-Year Plan by May 2020.

Item 15 – Discussion - Financial Assistance Awards Summary

The Financial Assistance Award spread sheet was in the Board packet to be reviewed.

Item 16 – Wrap-Up – Director’s Reports

Jerry Ward mentioned he had a commission meeting tomorrow in Salem.

Eldon Jossi said he had to chain up his hay truck for the first time today going over the coast range.

Steve VanGrunsven said Nicole Ruggiero sent him and any Directors who would like to attend an invite to a reception for the Real Oregon Training Graduates and passed alumni. It will be held on February 11, 2020.

Matt Pihl attended a meeting about the Oregon Agricultural Trust potentially forming. It was hosted at Fairsing Vineyards in Yamhill County. Oregon Agricultural Trust has since become an entity. Its’ inaugural event will be held on January 23, 2020 at Bethel Heights Vineyard.

Item 17 – Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Marsh, Operations Assistant.

Attested by: Steve VanGrunsven

February 11, 2020
Date