

**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2020**

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

Others Present: Kelly Dawes, TSWCD Judy Marsh, TSWCD
Lacey Townsend, TSWCD Randy Lawrence, CWS
Mike Conroy, TSWCD Brandy Saffell, TSWCD
Tyler Pedersen, TSWCD Olivia Hurd, TSWCD
Aaron Shaw, TSWCD Sandi Hiatt, ODA
Jessica Wells, NRCS Brian Creutzburg, Tualatin Basin
Water Quality Specialist Coordinator

Item 1 - Call Meeting to Order

The Zoom Board Meeting was called to order by the Chair, John McDonald at 6:32 pm.

Item 2 - Consent Agenda

John McDonald moved the agenda out of the Consent Agenda. John McDonald moved to accept the agenda with the modifications to add "Create Priorities Committee" to the New Business part of the agenda. Matt Pihl seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Matt Pihl moved to approve the remaining items in the Consent Agenda. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 3 - Public Comment

No public comment.

Item 4 - Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Kelly Dawes reviewed the financial reports. Kelly mentioned that the District for now is currently using the bill pay option through the bank. Eldon Jossi moved to pay the unpaid bills as of May 12, 2020, in the amount of \$43,480.93. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Anna Jesse moved to ratify the pre-approved bills as of March 1, 2020 - April 30, 2020, in the amount of \$511,156.96. Thomas Dierickx seconded. **Passed unanimously.** The Board briefly reviewed the credit card charges. Jerry Ward will ratify the expenses of the credit card charges for March 1 through April 30, 2020 and report his finding at the June Board Meeting. Steve VanGrunsven moved to receive the financial statements for March and April 2020, as presented. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 5 - Partner Reports

Randy Lawrence, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- New Vegetation Master Service list will be going to the CWS Board for final approval next week. There are 26 contractors on the list.
- Randy will be sending out a RFP that will be for 3-year contract on certain CWS large project parcels.
- Construction is moving forward, second phase by B-Street bridge over Gales Creek, Butternut Creek, and Fanno Creek. The Chicken Creek project is on hold.

Jessica Wells, Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

- Jessica mentioned that only one person can be in the office at a time. Work continues to get done.
- NRCS has received 16 EQIP applications, 9 RCCP applications and 6 Stewardship Program applications.
- Still learning the new systems.

Item 6 - SWCD Program Reports

Executive Director - Lacey Townsend

- Lacey asked John McDonald to explain the letters that were received from Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC), Jessica Jansen, Executive Directors, asking for \$40,000 on top of the \$75,000 a year contract the District has with them. A letter was sent from the District giving reasons why AIRC would not be receiving the extra \$40,000.

Invasive Species Technician - Olivia Hurd

- Olivia gave a presentation on why the District needs a drone. She gave reasons both pros and cons on owning our own drone. Jerry Ward moved to develop a drone program with policies and procedures. Thomas Dierickx seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 7 - Standing Committee Reports

Personnel Committee - Tualatin SWCD has one new employee, Blake Pierce, Habitat Conservation Program Technician. He started March 9, 2020.

Facilities Committee - Anna Jesse reported that the District was presented with an opportunity to buy a piece of property. Since the committee has not yet decided what the District wants or needs in a demonstration farm, it was decided not to buy this property.

Item 8 - New Business - Intergovernmental Agreement: Cooperative Agricultural Water Quality Programs between Clean Water Services and TSWCD

Lacey gave a report on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The Contract Committee had met and made a few comments on the draft IGA. CWS's legal

department reviewed the District's comments. The newest version of the IGA was distributed to the Directors. Matt Pihl voiced some concerns about a simple math equation in Exhibit A. Matt Pihl moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Cooperative in respect to the Agricultural Water Quality Programs between CWS and the District. Thomas Dierickx seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 9 – New Business – Project: Hayes – Forest Health and Resilience

Brandy Saffell gave a presentation on why to fund the Mt. Richmond Forest Health and Resilience project. There has been widespread conifer stress, decline and mortality in Washington County. This project area spans the Washington and Yamhill border which will require Board approval before moving forward with project planning. The first couple years of this project would be clearing Scotch broom and blackberries from the 90-acre site before planting. The Board asked Brandy Saffell and Mike Conroy to create a timeline and budget for the project. It will be presented at the June 2020 Board Meeting for approval.

Item 9a – New Business – Create a Priorities Committee

John McDonald asked the Board to consider creating a Priorities Committee (John, Kelly, Lacey, and Jerry) to prioritize expenditures and contracts in case of a shortfall of levied tax dollars in November 2020. Eldon Jossi moved to create the Priorities Committee. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 10 – Discussion – Strategic Plan Update

Lacey Townsend mentioned in the last Strategic Plan there were goals, objectives, and strategies for each program area. In the 2021 -2025 Strategic Plan there will be a broader set of goals and desired conditions for each of the natural resource priorities (Water Quality, Water Quantity, Soil Health, etc.). Each program area will have its own objectives and strategies to address the broader goals and desired conditions for the whole district. It also includes more detailed annual work plans that will have timelines and a more direct objective and strategy. A draft Strategic Plan will be ready to present at the June meeting.

Item 11 – Discussion – Financial Assistance Summary

Lacey Townsend mentioned that the summary was in the Board handouts. It included both March and April 2020 grants. After some discussion, Lacey will amend the report to add acreage on all the grants.

Item 12 – Wrap-Up – Director's Reports

Steve VanGrunsvan mentioned farmers are still farming and it is business as usual.

Thomas Dierickx would like more moisture.

Eldon Jossi and Anna Jesse would also like more moisture.

Matt Pihl would like less moisture.

John McDonald reminded the Directors that the Zoom Budget Committee Meeting is on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 6:15 pm.

Kelly mentioned that Brian Creutzburg is on the Zoom Board Meeting. Brian Creutzburg, DEQ Base Coordinator for Tualatin, introduced himself.

Item 13 - Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Marsh, Operations Assistant.

Attested by: Matt Pihl

June 9, 2020
Date