

**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2021**

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

Others Present:

Kelly Dawes, TSWCD	Judy Marsh, TSWCD
Lacey Townsend, TSWCD	Randy Lawrence, CWS
Jessica Wells, NRCS	Michael Taylor, NRCS
Aaron Shaw, TSWCD	Tyler Pedersen, TSWCD
Olivia Hurd, TSWCD	Cristobal Cardenas, Citizen
Kieran Sikdar, Citizen	Kristel Griffith, JWC
Bobby Nuvolini, TVID	Larry Klimek, Wildlife Refuge Manager

Matt Pihl, TSWCD Secretary, presided over the Oath of Office swearing in ceremony for Jerry Ward, Steve VanGrunsven, Anna Jesse, Eldon Jossi and Dean Moberg.

Item 1 - Call Meeting to Order

The Zoom Board Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerry Ward at 6:36 pm.

Item 2 - Oath of Office

The ceremony was conducted before the opening of the meeting.

Item 3 - Consent Agenda

Steve VanGrunsven moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Matt Pihl seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Item 4 - Election of Board Officers

Eldon Jossi moved to elect Jerry Ward as Chairman. Thomas Dierickx seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Anna Jesse moved to elect Steve VanGrunsven as Vice Chairman. Eldon Jossi seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Thomas Dierickx moved to elect Matt Pihl as Secretary. Anna Jesse seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Thomas Dierickx moved to elect Anna Jesse as Treasurer. Eldon Jossi seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Item 5 - Public comment

Cristobal Cardenas gave a brief bio of himself and told the Board he was very interested in becoming an Associate Director.

Item 6 - Presentation: Sponsorship opportunity of Reclamation's FOGO Agrimet site in Forest Grove

Bobby Nuvolini, Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID), is asking the District to become one of the sponsors of the Agrimet weather station in Verboort. He explained that farmers and other organizations use the data provided by the weather station. The City of Forest Grove will no longer be one of the sponsors starting 2021. Bobby is asking the TSWCD to replace the City of Forest Grove as one of the sponsors. The cost would be \$600 a year.

Item 7 - Presentation: Opportunity to become a partner to fund a permanent USGS gage station at Wapato

Kristel Griffith, Joint Water Commission, presented a request to help fund the USGS gage monitoring station on Wapato Creek. The importance of the monitoring station is for regional water management. It will measure both the elevation and flow of the water outside the levee system. The funding would be \$15,080 a year and she is asking for a 3-year commitment.

Item 8- Monthly Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Kelly Dawes reviewed the financial reports. Eldon Jossi moved to pay the unpaid bills as of January 12, 2021, in the amount of \$92,569.78. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Matt Pihl moved to ratify the pre-approved bills as of December 31, 2020, in the amount of \$306,041.01. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.** December 2020, credit card charges were discussed, and Anna Jesse said she approved all the charges. Matt Pihl moved to receive the financial statements for December 2020, as presented. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Kelly mentioned at a prior Board Meeting the Directors agreed to freeze the grant fund, financial assistance and conservation education grant. Kelly would like to unfreeze these funds. Thomas Dierickx moved to approve unfreezing a million dollars of the Grant and Financial Assistance Funding in the FY 21 budget. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 9 - Partner Reports

Randy Lawrence, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- Clean Water Services is going through a reorganization. Nate Collin is the new Chief Operation Officer. Mark Jocker is the new Chief of Staff.
- Cooler is filling up with plants. The cooler will open on January 25. Katie Robinson is the plant cooler contact.

- CWS continues to distribute PPE to anyone who needs it.

Jessica Wells, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Annual Local Work Group Meeting needs to be held before March 12, 2021. This meeting will be a zoom meeting and Jessica would like some help deciding when to hold it. She is thinking about sending out a survey to see what farmers consider as issues and or ideas for program funding.
- Receiving CIS requests for irrigation assistance, wildlife, and technology assistance.
- Site visits are being done.
- Finishing up contacting farmers with practices that have not been completed.
- Hiring positions are open for Soil Conservationists in Yamhill and Tillamook Counties.

Item 10 – Invasive Specie Program update and highlights

Tyler Pedersen updated the Board on what the Invasive Team has been doing.

- Updated the EDRR Guide (Weed Watchers Guide)
- Rebranded the Weed Watchers Program. New acronym TWIST (Tualatin Watershed Invasive Species Team) and a new tag line, Defenders of Habitat.
- Did an online Pre-recorded Public Workshop for Weed Watchers.
- Tyler went over several invasive species and showed a map where they have been spotted.
- Olivia Hurd has her license to fly a drone. Olivia is working to create a drone program.

Olivia explained how the drone pictures in the presentation were created.

- The Invasive Team used a Conservation Canine to find Garlic Mustard and other invasives.

Item 11 – SWCD Program Reports

No reports were given.

Item 12 – Standing Committee Reports

Personnel Committee – Anna Jesse mentioned the committee met to review and approved salary increase on the bases of the December staff evaluations.

Easement Committee – Aaron Shaw reminded the committee that there is a scheduled meeting on January 19 at 1:00 pm.

Item 13 – New Business - Proposed new award in John McDonald’s name

Dean Moberg brought to the Board a request to create a new award in John McDonald’s name. Discussion followed. Dean Moberg moved that the chair appoint a Director to contact John McDonald, ask his opinion about developing a new SWCD award in his name, and inquire what criteria Mr. McDonald believes should be used in choosing recipients of this award. Furthermore, this Director shall report back to the District Board at the February Board Meeting, summarizing this discussion with Mr.

McDonald and providing one or more options regarding such an award. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.** It was understood that Dean Moberg would be the Director to contact John McDonald.

Item 14 - New Business - TVID sponsorship request

Steve VanGrunsvan moved to approve \$600 annually to fund a portion of the Agrimet Station beginning in 2022. Anna seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 15 - New Business - JWC funding request

Jerry Ward moved to approve \$15,080 per year for a three-year commitment to fund a portion of the USGS gage station. Starting this current Fiscal Year 20-21. Thomas Dierickx seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 16 - New Business - Associate Directors and Directors Emeritus

Associate Directors List - Directors reviewed the list. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to retain Sally Krahmer as an Associate Director. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Anna Jesse moved to retain Jayson Hoffman as an Associate Director. Dean Moberg seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Dean Moberg moved to add Kieran Sikdar as an Associate Directors. Anna Jesse seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Directors Emeritus List - Directors reviewed the list. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to approve the Directors Emeritus list as presented with no changes. Matt Pihl seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 17 - New Business - ACORN Budget

Aaron Shaw informed the Board that ACORN system is almost complete. The ACORN team recommendation is for the Board to authorize additional spending on the ACORN project to improve specific system functions outside the scope of the original project. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to approve the addition funding, not to exceed \$37,000 to build the additional function to ACORN. Eldon Jossi second. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 18 - Discussion Items - Committee assignments

Changes were made to a few of the committees. Changes of Directors to a specific committee or a change in Chairmanship of the committee. Eldon Jossi moved to accept the committees as amended. Steve VanGrunsvan second. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 19 - Wrap-Up - Director's Reports

Matt Pihl mentioned that on the TSWCD website there is a free pesticide collection event. The last day to sign up is January 15.

Steve VanGrunsvan said that COVID restrictions will not cause the pesticide collection to be cancelled.

Thomas Dierickx said he had 2.5 inches of rain in 14 hours.

Eldon Jossi said he had 3 inches of rain in 14 hours and would like to give some to eastern Oregon.

Dean Moberg mentioned he had a great phone conversation with Kieran Sikdar before the election. Dean is helping some scientists to write a book on Oregon soils and is volunteering for NRCS by being on the Soil Health Committee for the state. He mentioned there are two vacant positions on the State Board of Agriculture. Forest clear cutting is a big item in the news. Clear cutting in forests is affecting small cities drinking water supplies around the state.

Jerry Ward welcomed Dean Moberg as a new director. Jerry also mentioned he was on a zoom board meeting for a District on the coast. It was kind of disturbing that this District was having budget constraints trying to find money to even pay for an ink cartage. Jerry noted how fortunate we are to have the tax base funding.

Item 20 - Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Marsh, Operations Assistant.

Attested by: Steve VanGrunsvan

February 9, 2021