

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022

Board Members Present: Thomas Dierickx Matt Pihl Anna Jesse
Dean Moberg Jerry Ward

Others Present: Lacey Townsend, TSWCD Kelly Dawes, TSWCD
Judy Marsh, TSWCD Aaron Shaw, TSWCD
Brandy Saffell, TSWCD Randy Lawrence, CWS
Jill Erickson, CWS Jessica Wells, NRCS
Tom Nygren, Citizen

Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order

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

Introductions were made.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

Dean Moberg moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with corrections. Anna Jesse seconded. Passed unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Comment

No Public Comment was given.

Item 4 – Monthly Financial Reports and Approval of Bills

Kelly Dawes reviewed the financial reports. Dean Moberg moved to pay the unpaid bills as of March 8, 2022, in the amount of \$74,346.21. Anna Jesse seconded. Passed unanimously. Matt Pihl moved to ratify the pre-approved bills as of February 28, 2022, in the amount of \$210,861.41. Thomas Dierickx seconded. Passed unanimously. February 2022 credit card charges were discussed, and all charges were approved by Anna Jesse. Dean Moberg moved to receive the financial statements as of February 2022, as presented. Matt Pihl seconded. Passed unanimously.

Item 5 – Partner Reports

Randy Lawrence, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- Bare root season was extended this year because the growers had a hard time harvesting the plants. Cooler will close two weeks later than usual.
- About 1,058,000 plants will be planted this year. 7.1 million plants have been planted since 2005 for the Washington County Tree for All Program.

- CWS will be planting about 19,000 plants at Swallowtail Farm. TSWCD will also be doing a pollinator pasture on the farm.
- Balm Grove dam is on schedule to be demolished this summer.
- CWS will end all mask requirements on March 11. CWS will be back to business-as-usual starting in April.

Jessica Wells, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Doing outreach to partners, getting information to them about NRCS programs.
- Doing contract planning with the new employee.
- The annual Local Work Group met last week. Hot topics discussed were climate change practices, soil health, drainage issues, reduced tillage, orchard recycling, water retention ponds, and irrigation issues.
- The NRCS office will be fully open by May 2.

Item 6 – Forest Conservation Program update and highlights

Brandy Saffel, Forest Conservation Specialist, updated the Board on what she has been doing since her last board presentation in June 2021. She held a focus group and learned what people are most concerned about. The items that were on the top of the list were.

- Vulnerable forest structure
- Wildfire risk
- Threats to long-term water quality
- Loss of oak habitat
- Not enough support for beginning land managers

Brandy touched on all these issues and what she has been doing about each one.

Item 7 - SWCD Program Reports

Executive Director – Lacey Townsend

- Lacey Townsend thanked Brandy Saffel for her great presentation.
- Lacey also mentioned that on Thursday April 7 at 11:45 am there will be a luncheon for Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation Board, Clear Water Services, and the County Commissioners. The luncheon is to be followed by a field tour of a riparian area out at the Ripple Center.

Director of Natural Resources – Aaron Shaw

- Aaron mentioned that Brandy Saffel was the driving force behind getting the Wildfire Protection Program. Aaron also thanked Brandy for the thorough update on the Forest Program.

Director of Finance and Operations – Kelly Dawes

- Kelly has completed two out of three budget law trainings.

Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports

Policy and Procedure Committee

- Kelly Dawes mentioned there is a plan in place to update all the District's policies.

Item 9 – Discussion – Land Acknowledgement Statement

Lacey Townsend presented the Board with a discussion idea about having an acknowledgement statement regarding the Indigenous People who lived in what is now called the "Tualatin River Watershed". This statement would be read before each a public event or educational event. This topic will be reviewed at April Board Meeting.

Item 10 – Discussion – SDAO Best Practices Program

Kelly Dawes gave a brief description of what the SDAO Best Practices Program entails. This year 4% of the 10% discount the District could get on its insurance has to do with Director participation in SDAO trainings. Kelly asked the Directors what they would like to do about their 4% of the program. Discussion on how to complete the 4% followed.

Item 11 – Wrap-Up – Directors' Reports

Thomas Dierickx mentioned he is working with a John Deere representative on a new style of fertilizer spreader that is being tested in the mid-west. It claims to help landowners save 6 to 7 percent on fertilizer cost. John Deere is hoping to set up a demo here in Oregon.

Dean Moberg said he has been talking to a few people from the Tualatin Valley Beekeeper Association. They would like the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD) to create pollinator habitat along some of the THPRD trails. Dean also went to a OACD Working Lands Committee where they discussed about climate change, potential to sequester carbon in soil, and farm and forest land vegetation. Dean mentioned he taught at the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) Conservation Planning Course where there were 19 NRCS and 11 SWCD staff in attendance.

Jerry Ward would like to thank the staff for their hard work. He continues to be amazed and proud of each staff member and what they have done.

Item 12 – Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Marsh, Operations Assistant.

Attested by: Matt Pihl

April 12, 2022

Date