

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2023

Board Members Present: Eldon Jossi, Dean Moberg, Jerry Ward, Thomas Dierickx  
Steve VanGrunsvan, Luke VanderZanden, Olivia Duren

Others Present: Charlotte Trowbridge, TSWCD      Aaron Shaw, TSWCD  
Annie Bronez, TSWCD                                      Nicole Ruggiero, TSWCD  
Jen Shih, TSWCD    Jessica Wells, NRCS  
Jill Erickson, CWS    Jim Anderson, public  
Jesse Nichols, public

Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerry Ward, at 6:30 pm.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

Steve VanGrunsvan moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with grammatical correction. Eldon Jossi seconded. Passed unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Comment

No Public Comment was given.

Item 4 – Partner Reports

Jill Erickson, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- On February 3, 2023, CWS turned 53 years old.
- Plants from the cooler are being moved out into projects.
- There is an Emerald Ash Borer training that USDA brought to Washington County. This training is focused on bio control.
- Mike Conroy helped CWS with a tour at the Spiesschaert Farm to demonstrate the Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM) strategy.

Jessica Wells, Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

- Jessica reminded everyone of the Local Work Group Meeting that will be held on February 22, 2023, starting at 9:00 am. The meeting is a hybrid, and the in-person part of the meeting will be held at Tualatin SWCD Pacific room.
- 15 High Tunnel, 4 Organic, 3 Animal Feed, 8 Forestry Management Plans, and 3 Water Quality Soil Health applications have already been received this year.

Item 5 – Conservation Education Program update and highlights

Charlotte Trowbridge presented a PowerPoint with updates on the program.

- Charlotte reviewed the program description with the Board.

- Conservation Education Program Major Work Categories:
  - Communication and Marketing
  - Educational Materials
  - Educational Events
  - Community Outreach Initiatives
- Charlotte gave highlights on:
  - Conserving Oregon White Oak Habitat
  - Supporting Local Agriculture
  - Managing Invasive Species
  - Restoring Urban & Rural Streams
  - Communications

Thomas Dierickx has arrived at the meeting.

#### Item 6 – SWCD Program Reports

*Director of Natural Resources - Aaron Shaw*

- Aaron explained to the new Board Members about the monthly group staff reports.
- He mentioned that Brandy Saffell has completed her NRCS Conservation Planner course and has received her certificate.

#### Item 7 – Standing Committee Reports

*Policy and Procedure Committee*

Eldon Jossi mentioned there is a meeting scheduled for March 7, 2023.

*Strategic Planning Committee*

Jerry Ward mentioned that the committee has had 10 meetings and a final draft has been created. It will be presented to the Board soon.

#### Item 8 – New Business – Budget Committee members

Jerry Ward said the Board needs to fill two positions for the FY24 Budget Committee. Rob Drake, Anne Hinkle, and Lakshmi Tata have applied. Eldon Jossi moved to accept Rob Drake and Lakshmi Tata for the two positions on the FY24 Budget Committee. Thomas Dierickx seconded. Passed unanimously.

#### Item 9 – Discussion – Senate Bill 775

Jerry Ward mentioned there is an exceedingly small group of people that want Zone Director qualifications changed. The changes in Senate Bill 775 are:

- 1) In counties with a population of less than (population count was not specified). The qualifications for Zone Director would not change.
- 2) Reside within the (zone that is represented) zones they represent in the district and (indicates) indicate an interest in natural resource conservation as demonstrated by serving at least one year as a director or associate director of a district and having a conservation plan that is approved by the

district.); or In counties with a population of (population count was not specified) or more, reside within the boundaries of the district. Candidates nominated for director from a specific zone shall be voted on by all electors within the district.

Very few Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Oregon welcome these changes.

#### Item 10 – Gales Creek Landslide

Dean Moberg presented a PowerPoint on the Gales Creek Landslide. George Karl, formally of Ash Creek Forest Management, has been observing for several years the logging practices on hill side forest lands. He is concerned that the logged hill sides are producing landslides above the North Fork of Gales Creek. The landslide erosion is sending sediment into the stream where fish live and spawn. Aaron Shaw mentioned that the District has been trying to help the landowner control the slides. The District will continue to support the landowner with forest management resources.

#### Item 11 Director' Reports

Olivia Duren said she attended the Washington County Small Woodland Association meeting where Brandy Saffell, Forest Conservation Specialist, from Tualatin SWCD presented on the Wildfire Risk Analysis. Olivia said Brandy did an excellent job presenting.

Dean Moberg mentioned:

- He attended the Tree for All meeting on Jan 19 at the Tualatin River Refuge with approximately 50 participants.
- On January 20 & February 3, 2023, he attended the OACD Advocacy Committee.
- January 23, 2023, he gave a presentation on Soil Fertility to League of United Latin American Citizens small farm meeting in Washington.
- On site visit with Briita Pajunas, TSWCD Urban Conservation Specialist, BPA, Elaine Stewart, TVBA re "scrappy spots" pollinator habitat projects on January 24, 2023.
- He attended the Oakey Dokey oak restoration work party at Peter & Pam Hayes Forest with Mike Conroy, TSWCD Habitat Conservation Specialist.
- On February 10, 2023 he attended the OWEB Rulemaking Advisory Committee meeting re climate criteria for future grants.
- He attended the Tualatin Riverkeepers Annual Meeting on February 11, 2023.

Jerry Ward mentioned he attended the Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting which held at the new Clackamas SWCD building. The new Director training will also be held at the Clackamas SWCD building on February 23, 2023.

Item 12 – Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Marsh, Operations Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested by: Eldon Jossi

\_\_\_\_\_  
March 14, 2023  
Date

