

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

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

Others Present:

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| Lacey Townsend, TSWCD | Kelly Dawes, TSWCD | |
| Judy Marsh, TSWCD | Charlotte Trowbridge, TSWCD | Aaron Shaw, TSWCD |
| Adriana Lovell, TSWCD | Nicole Ruggiero, TSWCD | Britta Pajunas, TSWCD |
| Jessica Wells, NRCS | Eliot Ewers, NRCS | Randy Lawrence, CWS |
| Anna Jesse, Emeritus | Clair Klock, Public | Jacqueline Jones, Public |
| Elaine Stewart, Public | Amelia Wallace, Jensen Strategies | |

Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerry Ward, at 6:31 pm.

Introductions were made.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

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

Item 3 – Public Comment

Elaine Stewart addressed the Board saying the new Strategic Plan for FY2024 – FY2028 was very well done. She did mention she sent an email to Lacey Townsend with her concern on some items. She would also like to see the District put in Energy Conservation as one of the goals to be considered.

Jacqueline Jones mentioned she was thankful that the District had Senate Bill 4 on the agenda for discussion. She is concerned with the unnecessary urban growth on agricultural land.

Item 4 – Monthly Financial Report and Approval of the Bills

Kelly Dawes reviewed the financial reports. Dean Moberg moved to pay the unpaid bills as of March 14, 2023, in the amount of \$137,212.42. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. Passed unanimously. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to ratify the pre-approved bills of January & February 2023, in the amount of \$703,341.45. Eldon Jossi seconded. Passed unanimously. January & February 2023, credit card charges were discussed, and all charges were approved by Dean Moberg. Eldon Jossi moved to receive the financial statements for January & February 2023. Luke VanderZanden seconded. Passed unanimously.

Kelly presented the Reserve Fund – Opportunity Proposed Category Guidelines spreadsheet that had been approved by the Board and Budget Committee last year. Kelly’s question was concerning the amount of money scheduled to be moved into the Reserve Fund this next fiscal year. The Board mentioned they would like to see more money put into this fund but would like to review the new FY24 budget before settling on a specific amount.

Thomas Dierickx arrived at the meeting.

Item 5 – Partner Reports

Clair Klock will be retiring from the Clackamas SWCD after 25 years of service. Clair mentioned several conservation practices that were accomplished during his employment. He also mentioned what he would like to see in the way of new conservation practices and education happening in the near future.

Randy Lawrence, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- Planting season is ending.
- The plant cooler will be closing for the year in 2 weeks.
- CWS is working with the Department of Agriculture on the Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM) strategy.
- DEQ is testing an incinerator for its admission levels. It is being tested now because of all the infected Ash trees that will need to be burned. The by-product coming from the incinerator will be Biochar.
- Randy thanked Mike Conroy for his leadership on the seed collection portion of the Climate Adapted Plant Materials Project.
- Randy thanked Bethany Lund for the great presentation she gave at the Clean Water Services Advisory Commission meeting.

Eliot Ewers, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Eli gave a brief bio of himself.

Jessica Wells, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

- Jessica was not in attendance, she emailed her report.

Item 6 – SWCD Program Reports

Executive Director – Lacey Townsend

- She mentioned attending the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Convention in New Orleans with Kelly Dawes. The theme for the convention was Local Resiliency, National Community. Speakers spoke on partnerships and getting conservation work on the ground.
- Lacey reminded Directors that Charlotte Trowbridge, Education and Grants Program Manager, needs a current picture and a short bio from each Director for the webpage.

Director of Finance & Operations – Kelly Dawes

- Kelly mentioned she enjoyed NACD Convention, especially the session where they talked about Virginia’s middle and high school programs. The program’s hope is to take the stigma out of Agriculture. That Agriculture is not just digging in dirt.

Item 7 – Standing Committee Reports

Policy and Procedure Committee

Eldon Jossi mentioned updates to policies are still in progress.

Easement Committee

Steve VanGrunsven mentioned that the Board page has is a draft of the new Conservation Easement Policy. The Easement Committee has reviewed and accepted the policy. The committee would like to know if the Board would like to send it to the Policy and Procedure Committee or adopt the policy tonight. Jerry Ward moved to adopt the Conservation Easement Policy as presented tonight. Eldon Jossi seconded. Passed unanimously.

Item 8 – New Business – Strategic Plan for FY24-28

Lacey Townsend presented the Strategic Plan for FY 2024 - FY 2028. Lacey explained the process that was taken by the committee to create this new Strategic Plan. The committee consisted of Lacey Townsend, Kelly Dawes, Dean Moberg, Charlotte Trowbridge, Jerry Ward, and Anna Jesse. Also, Amelia Wallace and Eric Jensen from Jensen Strategies were at the meetings.

Dean Moberg approved of the Strategic Plan but thought the land acknowledgement statement should be somewhere in the plan. It was finally decided to put the land acknowledgement in the introduction part of the plan. Dean Moberg moved to adopt the Strategic Plan for FY 2024 – FY 2028 as presented with the provision that Lacey Townsend and Charlotte Trowbridge determine which land acknowledgement of the three paragraphs to use and where to place it in the Strategic. Steve VanGrunsven seconded. Passed unanimously.

Item 9 – Discussion – Senate Bill 4 (LC 4320) – legislation related to semiconductors and land use

Steve VanGrunsven mentioned Senate Bill 4 has a lot to do with Washington County. It has to do in part with a large semiconductor federal funding. This bill would change the land use laws that have protected the farmlands for decades. The bill would give the Governor the right to override the Land Use Laws of Oregon for special commercial technology businesses to locate on farmland. This process will pull farmland into Urban Growth boundary without considering land already in the Urban Growth Boundary. Jacqueline Jones would like the District, if the District would consider, to send in written testimony with actual facts about Washington County and all the services the District provides the county. She feels that Senate

Bill 4 would be taking farmland out of production which would be counterproductive.

Steve VanGrunsven will work with Lacey Townsend and Nicole Ruggiero to create a neutral letter on who we are, what the purpose is, and why the District is testifying. Jerry Ward moved that the Board issue a neutral statement concerning Senate Bill 4. The draft letter will be submitted to the Board for any input. Eldon Jossi seconded. Passed unanimously.

Item 10 Director' Reports

Thomas Dierickx mentioned if anyone knows of a young person wanting to learn about the opportunities in agriculture, please send them his way.

Steve VanGrunsven attended a large Agricultural show in Orlando, Florida. He visited the John Deere booth where he saw the newest tractor that is fully computerized and could run by itself. There will be several tech job openings coming to the Agricultural field.

Luke VanderZanden commented that new fields of opportunity are opening in Agriculture. Not only just working the dirt. Luke would like to compare the old strategic plan to the new plan and also have access to any documents that would help him understand the District better. (Lacey Townsend said all the documents are either on the Board web page or the District's website.)

Dean Moberg said he is on the Board of the Cedar Hills Farmers Market. The market is looking for special crop farmers to participate. Also, Dean sent in his own testimony on Senate Bill 4 the other day. He opposes sections 9 & 10 of Senate Bill 4.

Item 12 – Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Marsh, Operations Assistant

Attested by: Eldon Jossi

April 11, 2023
Date