

**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2023**

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

**Others Present:** Kelly Dawes, TSWCD                      Judy Marsh, TSWCD  
Lacey Townsend, TSWCD                      Matt Boyer, TSWCD  
Aaron Shaw, TSWCD                              Briita Pajunas, TSWCD  
Kacey Myers, NRCS                              Jill Erickson, CWS  
Jim Anderson, Citizen                              Jacqueline Duyck Jones, Citizen

**Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order**

The Board Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerry Ward, at 6:33 pm.

Introductions were made.

**Item 2 – Consent Agenda**

Steve VanGrunsvan moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with addition. Luke VanderZanden seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

**Item 3 – Public Comment**

Jacqueline Duyck Jones thanked Kristina Peterson for Facebook post about no trespassing and the need to preserve farmland in Washington County. Spoke on concerns of North Plains proposal for UGB proposal for semiconductor development. Request for testimony or thoughts on record from the District for the June 20<sup>th</sup> North Plains City Council meeting.

**Item 4 – Monthly Financial Report and Approval of the Bills**

Kelly Dawes reviewed the financial reports. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to pay the unpaid bills as of June 13, 2023, in the amount of \$275,437.48. Dean Moberg seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Jerry Ward moved to ratify the pre-approved bills of May 2023, in the amount of \$445,454.15. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. Olivia Duren obtained. **Passed unanimously.** May 2023 credit card charges were discussed, and all charges were approved by Dean Moberg. Dean Moberg moved to receive the financial statements for May 2023. Luke VanderZanden seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

**Item 5 – Partner Reports**

Jill Ericksen, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- Congratulated all who were able to attend May's CWS board meeting. Board approved more funding to continue work with TSWCD. Next May will mark the 20th anniversary of partnership.
- Mike Conroy, TSWCD, and Rob Emanuel, CWS, participated on a panel in the Oregon Community Tree Conference, presented on alternatives for urban tree planting.
- CWS and TSWCD coordinated response to Emerald Ash Borer, Brandy Staffell, TSWCD, and Rob Emanuel, CWS, are involved in the state task force and are working on how to best provide information to Washington County residents.
- Hosted a test with DEQ to see if Air Curtain Incinerators to see if the emissions are a lot better than open burning. This would help cities manage wood waste with EAB. Test goal to streamline permitting process for the incinerators.
- Projected with ODA and Metro released a biocontrol that are parasitic wasps that will attack EAB.
- Quarantine the county with ODA had ended May 16<sup>th</sup>, but a temporary place restriction is still restricting ash wood from moving in and out the county.
- CWS submitted a grant proposal as part of the funds made available through the Income Reduction Act to support urban and community tree projects.

Kacey Myers, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- NRCS is finishing contracting for the current round of funding Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Organic Transition Initiative - OTI – sign up deadline is June 15, 2023
- Kacey previously performed outreach with OSU Extension to provide information for small farms and organics to connect them with NRCS programs.

### **Item 6 – Urban Conservation Program update and highlights**

Briita Pajunas presented a Power Point with updates on the programs.

- Briita reviewed the programs vision.
- Urban Conservation Program highlighted on:
  - Funding Programs - Direct Financial Assistance & Habitat Conservation Projects
  - Urban Partner Updates
  - EAB Community Engagement
  - Watershed Navigator Update
    - Adding Spanish Translation to be completed this summer.
    - Adding what local products in season to the Farmers Market Page
- Direct Financial Assistance
  - Focuses on Naturescaping, Meadowsaping, Pollinator Hedge Rows, Rain Harvesting, Rain Gardens.

- Currently 37 FA projects
  - Map outlined current urban are projects.
- Popular program funding maxed by Fall FY 2023
- Urban Habitat Conservation Program
  - Streamside and Urban Wetland Restoration combo site 9 projects with 64 total individuals enrolled.
  - Highlighted Glencoe Swale, Turner Creek, Fanno Creek, Hall Creek
  - Many of the enrollees are HOAs. They have communicated green space restoration with native planting have provided easier maintenance and possibly lower long-term maintenance cost.
- New partnership with Powerline Corridor Pollinators Team
- New Demonstration Project in process with Washington County Parks - Metzger

### **Item 7 - SWCD Program Reports**

*Executive Director – Lacey Townsend*

- No Comment

*Natural Resources Program Manager, Aaron Shaw*

- Commented on Briita's presentation and the Urban Habitat Conservation Program highlighting the scale the projects involve coordinating with multiple landowners and new parties as urban areas can have more turnover. Aaron addressed the ranking system for the high demand the program is receiving.

*Director of Finance - Kelly Dawes*

- Onboarding of new employee Matt Boyer.

### **Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports**

There were no Standing Committee Reports.

### **Item 9 – Adopt FY 24 Budget and Resolution 2023-1**

Kelly Dawes brought be for the Board to adopt the FY24 Budget and Resolution 2023-1

1. Steve VanGrunsven moved to adopt Resolution 2023-1 to adopt the FY24 total budget of \$23,868,600. Jerry Ward seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
2. Jerry Ward moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$4,270,519 for Natural Resources Program. Luke VanderZanden seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
3. Luke VanderZanden moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$2,434,053 for the Grants & Partnerships Program. Dean Moberg seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
4. Dean Moberg moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$167,500 for the Conservation Education Program. Olivia Duren seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

5. Oliva Duren moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$4,013,264 for District Operations. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
6. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$3,851,840 for the Not Allocated to Organizational Unit or Program. Jerry Ward seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
7. Jerry Ward moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$2,049,166 for the Special Revenue Fund – Grants. Luke VanderZanden seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
8. Luke VanderZanden moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$115,952 for the Special Revenue Fund – Easements. Dean Moberg seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
9. Dean Moberg moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$5,080 for the Special Revenue Fund – Conservation Stewardship. Thomas Dierickx seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
10. Olivia Duren moved to adopt the resolution to appropriate \$6,961,226 for the Reserve Fund – Opportunity. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
11. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to adopt the resolution that the following ad valorem property taxes are hereby imposed for tax year 2023-2024 upon the assessed value of all taxable property within the District in the amount of \$5,866,103. Thomas Dierickx seconded. **Passed unanimously.**
12. Thomas Dierickx moved that the taxes imposed are hereby categorized for the purposes of Article XI section 1b as permanent rate tax of \$5,866,103. Luke VanderZanden seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

#### **Item 10 – Approve development of two conservation easements**

Steve VanGrunsvan presented two conservation easements with a do pass recommendation. Two declarations were made prior to the formal presentation. Jerry Ward made a declaration on the Butler Conservation Easement that the owners had done Orchard work in the past for Jerry. Steve declared both owners of the easements being presented are customers of the company where Steve is employed, Valley Ag. Both declarants neither saw a conflict of interest.

Benards Farm, Agricultural Conservation Easement, 28 Acres, would be a working farms easement that would be donated by individual parcel and Butler Mitigation Bank is a Natural Lands Conservation Easement, Hoffman Farms, 93 Acres. Benards would be the first working lands easement.

After displaying land overlay for both potential conservation easements, a discussion on title review and whether additional legal review of the title report is completed. Benards Farm has two non-contiguous parcels, and existing access easements need to be ensured by additional review.

Jerry Ward moved to approve the Benards Farm Conservation Easement subject to additional title review by legal counsel of the policy exceptions and any potential easements to report back to Nicole Ruggiero, Aaron Shaw and Easement

Committee for final determination or further reporting to the board. Steve VanGrunsvan second the motion. **Passed Unanimously**

Jerry wanted to add under discussion. The Hoffman's have worked over 10 years on preparing for a plan for an easement. This will take long term maintenance in which the Hoffman family has the means, ability, and interest in the continue maintenance.

Steve VanGrunsvan moved to accept the donation of the Butler Conservation Easement at the Hoffman Farm. Dean Moberg seconded the motion. **Passed Unanimously**

### **Item 10 A – North Plains UGB Expansion**

Dean Moberg attended and testified at the North Plains city council meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> about the North Plains UGB Expansion. He presented and displayed a map of the UGB expansion. The total expansion would be 855.2 acres. The proposal acreage is split with 167.4 acres to residential and 687.8 acres to business. Up to eighty percent of the expansion would take farmland soils out of production.

Jacqueline Duyck Jones added further clarification 318 agenda packet for the expansion. Jacqueline raised concern about the adequate outreach and explanation of the impact of the expansion to the environment and farming. Dean commented if the analysis had a disproportion skew to urbanite relationship and didn't adequately involve farmers' needs and concerns.

After a review of the expansion and the impacts Jerry led a discussion about how the board and the district take a position, react, and make a statement on the specific UGB Expansion and future legislative topics.

Dean Moberg moved to provide a written statement stating, "The Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District board recommends that the proposed North Plains UGB expansion be significantly reduced in scope to minimize the urbanization of prime farmland soils" Steve Vangrunsvan seconded the motion. **Passed Unanimously**

The written statement will be drafted by the Executive Director, Lacey Townsend, stating portions of the TWSCD strategic plan that are appropriate. It will be reviewed by the board and presented to the North Plains council prior to their June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

After a review of the expansion and the impacts Jerry led a discussion about how the board and the district take a position, react, and make a statement on the specific UGB Expansion and future legislative topics. Dean Moberg will attend the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **10B – Agricultural Dirt Fill**

A recent request was received by TSWCD for an Agricultural Fill Permit. The prior committee for this topic has been disbanded. Aaron Shaw explained the process for permitting Ag Fill. A committee will be established, Luke VanderZanden will serve as chair. Steve VanGrunsven and Eldon Jossi will also serve on the committee.

**10C – Capital Press Article**

The topic has been moved to next month’s meeting.

**10D – Comment on Contacting Staff**

The topic has been moved to next month’s meeting.

**Item 11 - Director’ Reports**

No Director’s reports were given.

**Item 9 – Adjourn the meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt, Boyer, Operations Assistant

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Attested by: Eldon Jossi

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July 11, 2023  
Date