



**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023**

Board Members Present: Dean Moberg, Jerry Ward, Eldon Jossi
Steve VanGrunsven, Olivia Duren

Others Present: Kelly Dawes, TSWCD Sam Sharika, TSWCD
Lacey Townsend, TSWCD Matt Boyer, TSWCD
Aaron Shaw, TSWCD Mike Conroy, TSWCD
Randy Lawrence, CWS Logan Olds, CWS
Nicole Ruggiero, TSWCD Jacqueline Duyck Jones, Citizen
Ethan Nutall, Washington Co. Right of Way

Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerry Ward, at 6:34 pm.

Introductions were made.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

Dean Moberg moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with minor typographical changes in the Board Meeting Minutes on June 13. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 3 – Public Comment

Jacqueline Duyck Jones thanked the board for participating in testimony on the North Plains UGB Expansion Proposal. Due to improper public notice of prior meeting, August 9th and September 5th will be the new dates for testimony on the North Plains expansion project. She made a request for further testimony. Specifically, how the UGB expansion will affect agriculture, forestry, and habitat in Washington County.

Lacey Townsend, the Executive Director, will provide the previously submitted letter adding further statistics. Dean Moberg requested to testify and will do so as an individual. Olivia Duren noted the need for an Advocacy Committee.

Logan Olds introduced himself as a representative of Clean Water Services and manages the Water Resource Recovery Services. He previously spent a decade working in conjunction with another conservation district and looks forward to partnering with TSWCD. He has spent 33 years in the water resource recovery industry.

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 July 11, 2023, in the amount of \$48,837.23. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Oliva Duren moved to ratify the pre-approved bills of June 2023, in the amount of \$851,260.93 Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.** June 2023 credit card charges were discussed, and all charges were approved by Dean Moberg. Kelly Dawes presented the financial statements by fund. Steve VanGrunsvan moved to receive the financial statements for June 2023. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 5 – Partner Reports

Randy Lawrence, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- June 20th the Fiscal Year 2024 budget was approved, and as part of the budget there will be another 5-year partnership with TSWCD.
- Obtained a new cooler location for plant material previously at Oregon Roses location now with J Hoffman Farms.
- Hiring two positions, Water Resources Specialist Trainee and Business Systems Analyst – each position will support or directly work with TSWCD.
- Emerald Ash Borer taskforce identified a strategy out of Michigan SLAM (slow ash mortality) to provide time for a response against EAB.
- EAB eggs have been found on olive trees in Forest Grove.
- Oregon Department of Agriculture has acquired a curtain incinerator to make available for various groups.

Kacey Myers, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) was not present and there was no other report.

Item 6 – Forest Conservation Program update and highlights

Brandy Saffell presented a Power Point with updates on the Forestry program.

- Forest Conservation Program has finished their prioritization and focus development. They expect to have more of a concentrated impact.
- Climate(heat/drought) vulnerability, Wildfire risk, Threats to long-term water quality, Loss of Oak habitat will be the focus for Financial Assistance
- Displayed maps provided climate vulnerability for conifers and wildfire risk.
 - The two layers were combined to create the prioritization map.
 - The highest-ranking area will be known as Forest Resilience Priority Communities.
- Hagg Lake Priority Community was used to further explain the ranking system and how actions can be taken.
- Wildfire preparedness outreach – 11/18/22 and 3/17/23 were had with various partners groups on Hagg Lake to establish targeted outreach to landowners.

- Cherry Grove residents have expressed interest in making a fire wise community.

Item 7 - SWCD Program Reports

Board Director, Olivia Duren inquired on Urban Conservation and Habitat Conservation programs reports and the wildlife monitoring at HCP sites.

- Nicole Ruggiero explained the protocols and staff training for monitoring focal species (beaver, oak, etc.) and using birds as monitoring proxies.

TSWCD Executive Director, Lacey Townsend

- Displayed the designed version of the Strategic Plan – A print version and a web version will be available.
- The summer newsletter will mention the new plan.
- TSWCD will be a sponsor of the Green Fork Project – the goal is to increase awareness of agricultural in the county. It will have a digital story telling (podcast).

Natural Resources Program Manager, Aaron Shaw

- Reminded the board that the Ag-Fill Committee has a meeting on July 20th.
- He thanked Brandy for her presentation on the Forestry Program. Highlighted that forests cover one-third of the land in Washington County.

Director of Finance, Kelly Dawes

- Explained new digital folders for the board. This is to make information more accessible for each of the committee meetings.

Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports

There were no Standing Committee Reports.

Item 9 – HCP Project Funding approval – Patrick Wetland

Steve VanGrunsven moved to approve Patrick Wetland HCP Project at \$122,002.35 Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 10 – HCP Project Funding approval – McGregor Wetland HCP

Eldon Jossi moved to approve McGregor Wetland HCP Project at \$114,000.00. Olivia Duren seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

After motions passed there was a discussion of inflation and general increase of various costs. The board considered raising the limit for Executive Director's approval on projects and grants.

Jerry Ward made a motion to increase the TSWCD Executive Director funding approval for Grants and Projects to \$125,000.00. Steve VanGrunsven seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 11 – Wallabe Farms Conservation Easement and county roadway improvement

Prior to presentation Jerry Ward deferred discussion to Lacey Townsend, Executive Director, and decision to Steve VanGrunsven, as Vice-Chair and Chair Easement Committee, due to a potential conflict of interest.

Lacey Townsend made the initial statement that after a review from legal counsel the TSWCD board should oppose the county roadway project at this point. TSWCD has an obligation to protect the easement based on how the easement is written.

Nicole Ruggiero explained the initial purpose of the easement, to protect farmland, and displayed engineer's maps showing the scale of the proposed county project.

The decision on defending the easement has been moved until after an Easement Committee meeting is held in July. The Committee's recommendations will be presented at the August Board meeting.

Item 12 – Capital Press Article

A May 24th article on SB 775 was discussed. A board director was quoted in the article and was identified as such along with their title. The discussion emphasized the difference between speaking as a board director and speaking as an individual

Item 13- Directors' Reports

Dean Moberg attended the Oregon Family Forest Convention June 23-25. A written report was provided to Lacey Townsend. North Plains UGB Expansion, August 16th Washington County Planning Commission Meeting and October 17th Washington County Board of Commission meetings are to be held.

Jerry Ward noted that the Soil and Water Conservation Commission meetings will be held the 9th and 10th of August. His four year term as Vice Chair for the commission expired in June. He has submitted paper work to run again.

No other Director's Reports.

Item 14 – Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Boyer, Operations Assistant

Attested by: Eldon Jossi

August 8, 2023
Date

