



Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting Minutes August 8, 2023

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

Others Present: Lacey Townsend, TSWCD Kelly Dawes, TSWCD
Matt Boyer, TSWCD Elaine Stewart, Citizen
Nicole Ruggiero, TSWCD Jacqueline Duyck Jones, Citizen
Jill Erickson, CWS
Logan Olds, CWS

Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair, Steve VanGrunsven, at 6:32 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

Dean Moberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the typographical changes in the three meeting minutes and the addition to the agenda. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 3 – Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Item 4 – Monthly Financial Report and Approval of the Bills

Kelly Dawes reviewed the financial reports. Eldon Jossi moved to pay the unpaid bills as of August 8, 2023, in the amount of \$64,981.36. Olivia Duren seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Dean Moberg moved to ratify the pre-approved bills of July 2023, in the amount of \$333,823.89. Olivia Duren seconded. **Passed unanimously.** July 2023 credit card charges were discussed, and all charges were approved by Dean Moberg. Kelly Dawes presented the financial statements by fund. Olivia Duren moved to receive the financial reports as provided for Tuesday, August 8th, 2023. Dean Moberg seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 5 – Partner Reports

Jill Erickson, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- Jill shared a note from Randy Lawrence stating that he is excited about the Climate Adaption Planting Material Program and that CWS has received its first shipment of plant material seed from the Institute for Applied Ecology.
- Clean Water Services worked on a Strategic Road Map. It was recently approved by their board. In July it was presented to the Clean Water Advisory Council. The road map will allow CWS to be more adaptive and manage anticipated changes caused by climate change.

Item 6 – Rural Conservation Program update and highlights

The Rural Conservation Program Manager, Nicole Ruggiero, presented a PowerPoint with updates on the programs.

- Nicole looked back at the program since she started with TSWCD five years ago. Tatiana Taylor, a Rural Conservation Technician, began four years ago.
- The technician focuses much of their time on Technical and Financial Assistance Programs, allowing the manager time to broaden partnerships and the Conservation Easement Program.
- Kristina Peterson has provided additional assistance with educational outreach for the Rural Conservation Program.
- Nicole displayed the last 5 fiscal years for Direct Financial Assistance.
- The program has been moving towards whole farm projects which takes more time. Creating agricultural management plans would be an aspect of assistance for whole-farm projects.
- Obligated FA spending has been at the goal amount for the last two Fiscal Years.
- Many of their clients would be considered small residential farmers under 60 acres. These clients may be new to farming and are finding TSWCD to be a resource for assistance.
- Rural Program's priorities are Water Quality, Water Quantity, and Soil Health.
- Identifying resource priorities and needs will be used as a guide to where the program will focus its efforts. A map was displayed with the different commodities grown throughout the county, and it was used as an example to show there wasn't one specific subbasin to focus on. Their work will be across Washington County
- One focus area for the program was assigned by ODA (SIA Focus Area: Lower Gales and Carpenter Creek Watersheds).
- Conservation Easement Program consists of Farmland, Forest, and Natural Lands Conservation
- Nicole outlined the Outreach and Strategic Plan goals for Fiscal Year 24.
 - A Farm Succession Planning Workshop will be held at Jessie Mays Community Hall in November

Item 7 - SWCD Program Reports

Executive Director – Lacey Townsend

- A request for a proposal for an Equity Plan was sent out. Five entities received the proposal request, and at the time of this meeting, only one entity responded.
- The entity that responded was twice the budgeted amount.
- Lacey discussed the options for TSWCD. She will follow up with the consultants that did not respond and will reach out to other SWCDs with Equity Plans to compare costs.
- Lacey sent the letter that was discussed at July's board meeting to North Plains City Council. She included the Department of Land Conservation and Development as an additional recipient of the letter.
- The agreement to continue TSWCD's sponsoring OSU Extension Service's Washington County Master Naturalist will be another two years. Alice Phillips will provide an update on the program at November's Board Meeting

Director of Finance - Kelly Dawes

- As of July 1st, worker's compensation insurance moved to a new provider.
- There will be a change in timekeeping for employees, and now Board of Director's time will be recorded for all sanctioned activities.

Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports

Ag Fill Committee:

Luke VanderZanden mentioned that a site visit is being planned for the proposed Dixon Mill Grading permit application. No action will be taken until then.

Conservation Easement Committee:

Meet in July and a committee meeting discussion will be addressed with Agenda Item 9.

Before moving to new business items Steve VanGrunsven opened the floor to Jacqueline Duyck Jones for a few updates and comments on the North Plains Expansion Project. August 9th will be the North Plains Planning Committee meeting. Public comments can be made after the Work Session.

The North Plains' Garlic Festival is this weekend, and Farmland First will have a float.

Item 9 – Wallabe Farms Conservation Easement and County Roadway Improvement

After the last committee meeting, it was deemed that the conservation easement values were not threatened by the county road improvement project.

Dean Moberg moved to approve the Wallabe Farms Conservation Easement letter as presented tonight and to send it to all significant parties. Eldon Jossi seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Item 9B – Urban Stewardship Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment between CWS and TSWCD

The original Urban Stewardship Intergovernmental Agreement has expired. The agreement was to work on the Urban Living Handbook, which turned into the Watershed Navigator, and projects in the Cedar Mill/North Johnson Creek. The amendment extends the agreement through the current fiscal year and adds two exhibits (Exhibit C – Watershed Navigator and Exhibit D – Habitat Conservation Program). The HCP projects will be at Bauman Park, Davala Wetland, and Jurgens Park.

Olivia Duren moved to approve the Urban Stewardship IGA between the Tualatin SWCD and Clean Water Services as presented. Dean Moberg seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

Item 10 Directors' Reports

Dean Moberg is on the Cedar Mill Farmers Market Board. At the July 29th market he tabled with materials provided by the TSWCD Conservation Education staff.

Item 11 – Adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Boyer, Operations Assistant

Attested by: Eldon Jossi

September 12, 2023
Date