

**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2023**

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

**Others Present:** Lacey Townsend, TSWCD Kelly Dawes, TSWCD  
Matt Boyer, TSWCD Eli Staggs, TSWCD  
Tyler Pedersen, TSWCD Elaine Stewart, Citizen  
Jill Erickson, CWS Aaron Shaw, TSWCD

**Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order**

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

Introductions were made.

**Item 2 – Consent Agenda**

Dean Moberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

**Item 3 – Public Comment**

Elaine Stewart provided a general introduction, identifying that she was on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget committee and has volunteered with various pollinator projects. Elaine submitted a letter requesting to become an associate director. She is aware that the position would be a non-voting position. Elaine would like to continue her involvement with TSWCD.

Jerry Ward acknowledged Elaine's comments, and a vote will be taken at the October board meeting.

Aaron Nichols, Co-Owner of Stoneboat Farms, submitted a letter for public comment, and Lacey Townsend presented the letter to the board. Aaron's letter spoke to the need to preserve farmland and thanked TSWCD for their support.

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

Kelly Dawes reviewed the financial reports. Luke VanderZanden moved to pay the unpaid bills as of September 12, 2023, in the amount of \$91,654.23. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.** Eldon Jossi moved to ratify the pre-approved bills of August 2023 in the amount of \$488,120.60. Steve VanGrunsvan seconded. **Passed unanimously.** August 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, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Dean Moberg seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

### **Item 5 – Partner Reports**

Jill Erickson, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- Planting season is beginning. Container plants are arriving September 19<sup>th</sup> and all herbaceous plants are coming October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- With plants arriving, CWS is hiring a temporary Water Resource Specialist to help with planting activities.
- CWS is actively recruiting a new Director of Natural Systems.
- The Natural Systems department has grown to 30 employees and 3 division managers.

### **Item 6 – Invasive Species Program update and highlights**

The Invasive Species Program Manager, Tyler Pedersen, presented a PowerPoint with updates on the program.

- The team of three consists of Tyler, Oliva Hurd, and Eli Staggs.
- Over 1,500 Permit of Entry (POEs) requests have been sent to landowners to perform surveys for invasives and to do treatments. The response rate is 29%.
- Partnered with Tualatin River Keepers to do Aquatic Weed Watcher Paddle events.
- Partnered with Montessori School of Beaverton to install boot brushes.
- Along with the Samara Group, the Invasives Species Program began developing a Weed Management Plan, which will be used to identify future restoration work and identify and create funding opportunities for partners.
- Eli has created a public-facing invasive treatment dashboard. It can filter species by year and treatment areas. Residents can type in their address and see their subbasin and the types of invasives that may be present in the area.
- Tyler displayed before and after photos and graphs showing the improvements made and reduction rates after treatments for a variety of invasive species (e.g.. Garlic Mustard, Purple Loosestrife, Knotweed, Parrotfeather, Leafy Elodea, and Giant Hogweed).
- There have been five known infestations of Puncturevine. The program has been working with farmers to help control the spread.
- A pilot program with hack and squirt treatments on Tree of Heaven in Hillsboro was started by Olivia and Eli.
- With landowner permission, the Invasives program utilizes drone photography to monitor restoration work and survey for invasive weeds.
- The team has been monitoring and setting traps for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and invasive turtles.
- Turtle trapping partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Wetlands Conservancy, and the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

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

*Director of Natural Resources – Aaron Shaw*

- Commented on Tyler’s report and how the Invasive Species Program has worked hard to gain the trust of landowners.
- The Invasive Program’s hard work and outreach will increase the Permit of Entries and further treatment activities.

*Executive Director – Lacey Townsend*

- Provided the board with recently printed documents: the Strategic Plan brochure and the Conservation Education – Fall Workshop flyer.
- Oregon Ag in the Classroom provided Lacey with their annual report, and they offered to present to the board. January's board meeting was tentatively given as an open date for them to attend.

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

*Personnel Committee:*

The committee had a meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup>, and further discussion of the meeting will be had as part of Agenda Item 9.

*Ag Fill Committee:*

The committee concluded that the Dixon Mill Grading Permitted project was practical and would be beneficial for agricultural use. A draft letter from the committee indicating the committee's views on the project will be sent to the Washington County Land Use and Transportation Department.

### **Item 9 – Ratification of employee benefits**

TSWCD’s Personnel Committee amended the self-managed time policy due to Paid Leave Oregon, which took effect September 3, 2023. Time off requests are to be distinguished, and there will be a cap for self-managed time. Oregon state law requires an allowance of 40 hours of Paid Sick Time Off. The amended policy now shows the capped levels of time.

Dean Moberg wanted to note for the record the benefits of the amended self-managed time policy. First, it demonstrates the trust the board puts in the employees at all levels, both in the supervisors and the individuals they supervise. Second, the policy can be seen as very generous, but the district can benefit from low employee turnover. Finally, the amendment ensures that TSWCD remains compliant with state law.

Steve VanGrunsven moved to ratify the policy on self-managed paid time, updated and amended on August 28, 2023. Luke VanderZanden seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

### **Item 10 Representative at OACD Annual Meeting**

The Oregon Association of Conservation District's annual meeting will be October 16-18 at Eagle Crest. A discussion was held about the annual meeting and sending a representative.

Steve VanGrunsven moved that Jerry Ward represent the district at the OACD Annual Meeting. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

**Item 11 Annual Meeting and Resolution 2023-2**

The written resolution was presented to the board of directors. Dean Moberg moved to approve resolution 2023-2, establishing the date of the Tualatin SWCD's Annual Meeting for January 9, 2024. Eldon Jossi second. **Passed unanimously.**

**Item 12 Directors' Reports**

Dean Moberg has been working with farmers following the proposed UGB expansion. He attended the North Plains Commission and the North Plains City Council meetings. He also attended two trainings at the OSU North Willamette Research and Extension Center Station, one on soil nitrate and another on dryland vegetable farming.

Jerry Ward attended the Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting in Harney County. There were multiple site visits showing fire hazards and the invasives that they are working to control in the area.

**Item 13 – Adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Boyer, Operations Assistant

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Attested by: Eldon Jossi

September 12, 2023  
Date