

**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023**

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

Others Present: Lacey Townsend, TSWCD; Kelly Dawes, TSWCD; Matt Boyer, TSWCD; Mike Conroy, TSWCD; Bethany Lund, TSWCD; Elaine Stewart, Citizen; Stan Dean, Jackson SWCD; Whitney Rohner, Baker Valley, Burnt River, Keating, & Eagle Valley SWCDs; Randy Lawrence, CWS; Stephanie Payne, NRCS

Item 1 – Call Meeting to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jerry Ward, at 6:35 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

Olivia Duren moved to adopt the Consent Agenda for October 10, 2023, with the changes discussed: removing Associate Director Appointment under New Business and change in presenter for Clean Water Services. Luke VanderZanden seconded.
Passed unanimously.

Item 3 – Public Comment

Public comments were made by two candidates for the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts board election.

Whitney Rohner provided a general introduction, identifying that she is the District Manager for the four SWCDs in Baker County. She is running for an OACD East-At-Large board position. In 2016, she served as an acting Executive Director. Her goal is to ensure that OACD remains in sync with its focus and the struggles SWCDs face, especially in rural communities. She would like OACD to have representation across the board.

Stan Dean is running for an OACD At-Large board position. He worked for 30 years as a Civil Engineer, mostly on municipal and wastewater infrastructure, and over the last few years, he has been serving organizations focusing on land stewardship and conservation. Currently, Stan is Board Chair for Jackson SWCD and sits on the Rogue River Watershed Council and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Stan is currently the Chair of OACD's Advocacy Committee. Stan's goal is to maintain an active and engaged board.

Item 4 – Monthly Approval of the Bills

Kelly Dawes presented the unpaid bills report to the board. Olivia and Luke both requested an explanation of the Soil Rental Payments, which are incentive payments within the Enhanced Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Luke VanderZanden moved to pay the unpaid bills as of October 10, 2023, in the amount of \$95,925.06. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously.** September 2023 credit card charges were discussed, and all charges were approved by Dean Moberg (Board Treasurer). The remaining financials for September will be presented at October's board meeting.

Item 5 – Partner Reports

Randy Lawrence, Clean Water Services (CWS)

- CWS did not receive the Inflation Reduction Act Urban Forestry Grant applied for in June, but work with Tree for All and partners will continue. Overall, Oregon received 58 million dollars as part of the Inflation Reduction Act for various projects.
- Balm Grove dam removal is complete. On-going revegetation projects will continue.
- SLAM (Slow Ash Mortality) is creating a ring around Forest Grove and Cornelius to monitor and treat ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).
- Promising signs have been shown with the Biocontrol release for EAB. Some felled trees have shown the Biocontrol to be parasitizing the EAB larva.
- CWS had their annual native plant giveaway. Over 277 households received 1300 plants.
- CWS is recruiting a new Chief of Staff.

Stephanie Payne, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Stephanie began by introducing herself as the new Urban Ag Conservationist for the Portland Metro Area, based out of the Beaver Creek office.
- Previously, she was a small farm and organics specialist for NRCS based in Redmond.
- While in Redmond, she built a Conservation Implementation Strategy focused on food security, providing financial support for producers growing food for low-income/access communities.
- Provided some updates on NRCS. The new Fiscal Year began in October, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application deadline is November 17th, and the Conservation Stewardship Program application deadline is March 29.

Item 6 – Habitat Program update and highlights

The Habitat Program Coordinator, Bethany Lund, and Habitat Conservation Specialist, Mike Conroy, provided a PowerPoint with updates on the program.

- Bethany tied the presentation to the Strategic Plan Actions – Water Quality & Conservation and Habitat.
- 1,040 acres are enrolled in restoration projects - VEGBAC, ECREP, and HCP – Bethany provided a map outlining current enrollment.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – TSWCD is partnering with NRCS, CWS, and Tualatin River Watershed Council to improve steelhead and fish/wildlife habitat in the Gales Creek sub-basin.
- This RCPP aims to remove barriers that obstruct access for this species. Finger Creek and Lower Coffee Creek have designed projects to remove culverts, replace them with bridges, and enhance the riparian area with planting. Construction is set to begin in the summer of 2024.
- Mike provided an update on the Climate Adapted Plant Materials Project (CAPM). Seed scouting started this spring and will continue through 2024. The collection of seeds began in June, and potting of the seeds starts this month at the CWS Tualatin River Farm.
- Lichtenstein HCP Oak Release was highlighted as a unique model for achieving habitat objectives. 10 acres of priority oak habitat have been restored.
- The Lichtenstein project sets a new HCP model for TSWCD in which the district sought logging contracts and became the timber owner. After logging, any revenue received went back into the project, such as blackberry control and revegetation. Mike showed a video and aerial image to show the scale of the project.

Item 7 - SWCD Program Reports

Executive Director – Lacey Townsend

- Andrew Felton, of TSWCD's Conservation Education staff, was hired as the new Forestry Technician.
- TSWCD is posting for a Habitat Conservation Specialist.
- Lacey provided a mailer with upcoming workshops provided by TSWCD.
- Currently, the Tualatin River Watershed Council is working on their Strategic Plan; Lacey sits on their board.
- OSU Extension will have a presentation about the Master Naturalist Program at the November board meeting.
- The NACD Annual Conference is in February. TSWCD has submitted two presentation proposals. Mike Conroy submitted for the Climate Adapted Plant Materials project and Andrew Felton for the Watershed Navigator website project.

Item 8 – Standing Committee Reports

There were no reports.

Item 9 - Associate Director appointment

The agenda item was removed as part of adopting the consent agenda.

Item 10 - Oregon Association of Conservation District Board election ballot

The election ballot was presented, and the list of candidates was identified. A general discussion was held on the nominated candidates.

Jerry Ward moved to nominate Whitney Rohner as the elector for the East-At-Large position of the OACD board. **Passed unanimously.**

Jerry Ward moved to nominate Stan Dean and Jan Lee for the (2) At-Large positions for the OACD election ballot. Dean Moberg moved to nominate Mike Guebert.

Jerry Ward called for voting on the three nominees for At-Large positions for the OACD ballot, and the nomination movements were called in the order the election ballot was presented.

Stan Dean for the At-Large position on the OACD board. (5) votes in favor and (1) vote against. The **motion passed.**

Mike Guebert for the At-Large position on the OACD board. (3) votes in favor and (3) votes against. The **motion did not pass.**

Jan Lee for the At-Large position on the OACD board. (6) votes in favor. The **motion passed unanimously.**

Item 11 Directors' Reports

Dean Moberg provided a director's report, tying it to TSWCD's Strategic Plan. He presented at the Great Grains event (Goal #1 Water Quality and Conservation - Raise awareness of water quality concerns). Dean updated the board on the North Plains expansion and a petition to put the issue on the ballot so the citizens of North Plains can vote whether or not to support the expansion (Goal #6 Working Farms, Forest, and Community – Strategy 2: Preserve working lands in Washington County). Dean attended SDAO training on Board Relations Expectations and Ethics (Goal #10 Organizational Health).

Olivia Duren attended Great Grains with her family and the Lichtenstein HCP Oak Release site visit.

Jerry Ward will attend the OACD meeting next week at Eagle Crest. Jerry offered TSWCD to host the January or February Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting.

Item 12 – Adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Boyer, Operations Assistant

Attested by: Eldon Jossi

October 10, 2023
Date