

**Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2024**

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

TSWCD Staff Present: Lacey Townsend, Kelly Dawes, Matt Boyer

Others Present: Jill Erickson, CWS; Eliot Ewers, NRCS; Elaine Stewart, Public

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, and Jerry Ward then gave the recently hired Invasive Species Technician, Keith Nasman, the opportunity to provide further background history. He most recently transitioned to this position from Yamhill SWCD.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

Dean Moberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the minor change in the April board Meeting Minutes. Luke VanderZanden seconded. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Item 3 – Public comment

No public comments were made.

Item 4 – Monthly Financial Report and Approval of Bills for April 2024

The Director of Finance and Operations, Kelly Dawes, presented the financial reports. Luke VanderZanden moved to authorize payment of unpaid bills, as presented on May 14th, 2024, in the amount of \$23,7500.11. Eldon Jossi seconded. The motion **passed unanimously**. Dean Moberg moved to ratify the pre-approved bills for April 2024 in the amount of \$528,357.83. Eldon Jossi seconded. The motion **passed unanimously**. April 2024, credit card charges totaling \$7,319.65 were reviewed and discussed. The Treasurer, Dean Moberg, noted the transition to the new credit card payment and tracking system. Dean Moberg approved all credit card charges; expenditures were usual, and nothing out of the ordinary. Kelly Dawes presented the financial statements by fund. Olivia Duren moved to receive the financial reports as presented on May 14, 2024. Eldon Jossi seconded. **Passed unanimously**.

Item 5 – Partner reports

Jill Erickson, *Clean Water Services (CWS)*

- Jill provided a presentation slide show with updates on Tree for All
- The CWS Board and Budget Committee met and approved the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

See Appendix “A” for presentation slides.

Eliot Ewers, *Natura Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)*

- Eliot elaborated on the previous month's NRCS PowerPoint, showing current deadlines and program applicant totals for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with updates for May.
- CSP is their priority focus, and the deadline for assessing, ranking, and eligibility is June 7th. Two projects from the previous months, 18 EQIP applicants have been funded; both are Forest Management Plans, and two applicants have canceled/deferred.
- Eliot provided some dates to look forward to.
 - NRCS has hired a new engineer, Kyler, beginning 6/3/24.
 - 6/13/24 will be a Field Day for Hazelnut Growers at Ioka Farms
 - NRCS will be participating in Wild Fire Ready 6/22

Item 6 – SWCD program reports

Executive Director - Lacey Townsend

- Announced that Casey Blake will leave as Programs Coordinator with Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation next month. Lacey will be on the hiring panel for the new position.

Operations Assistant – Matt Boyer

- Listed the three director positions up for reelection this November: Zone 1, Zone 2, and At Large 1. Sandi Hiatt is the point of contact with the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture as the SWCD Election Clerk. 2024 Election information will be added to the board page.

Director of Finance and Operations – Kelly Dawes

- On May 7th, a draft budget was sent to the Budget Committee for review. As of now, no questions have been received. The initial meeting is scheduled for May 22nd at 6:00 pm, with the possibility of two more meetings if the budget is not accepted.
- Public comment will be available at the 5/22/24 meeting, which will allow for a vote to approve the budget.

Item 7 – Standing Committee Reports

Contract Committee - A Contract Committee meeting was scheduled to establish a quorum. The meeting will be on May 29th, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. to vote on the Request for Proposals for the Finger and Coffee Creeks Aquatic Organisms Passage Project. Lacey cannot attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict with a Partner Workshop in Cornelius. Dean Moberg added a comment on the tour held on May 1st. Part of the site used to host a sawmill and a rail line for logging. Later, it became a picnic rail line. He wanted to express his appreciation to the staff for their work with the six different landowners involved in the creek project.

Facilities Committee—Jerry Ward signed a removal of contingencies on the Cherry Drive property, moving it toward closing. The sellers are to pay the property tax, and a final closing fee sheet will be provided to Kelly Dawes from the title company before closing. Jerry Ward also thanked the directors for attending the Special Board Meeting on May 7th.

No other committee reports were given.

Steve VanGrunsvan exited the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Item 8 – Special District Nominations for Metro Policy Advisory Committee (Wash. Co. representative and alternate)

Lacey Townsend had the two nomination forms pulled up for review. The only nominations were Miles Palacios to serve as a Representative and Jim Duggan as an Alternate for MPAC. Olivia Duren recalled that the two individuals were initially appointed, but the proper procedure of having Special Districts vote was not followed, so now the Special Districts are having a vote on the nominees.

Elaine Stewart also provided a link further providing information on the policy areas of the MPAC addresses. ([Metro Policy Advisory Committee](#))

Dean Moberg moved to recommend Miles Palacios as the Representative and Jim Duggan as the Alternate for the Metro Policy Advisory Committee. **Passed Unanimously.**

Item 9 – Directors' Reports

Dean Moberg attended Soil School on April 12th. Kieran Sikdar had a session on fungi and moss, incorporating them into landscapes and buildings. Kieran would be interested in providing some of his knowledge as the District looks forward to its new office site. On May 5th, he attended a Tractor Parade in North Plains, culminating in a concert. The ballot voting on UGB Expansion in North Plains is due May 21st.

Luke VanderZanden also commented that the Tractor Parade and the concert were well attended.

Item 10 – Adjourn the meeting

The Board Chair, Jerry Ward, adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Boyer, Operations Assistant.

Attested by: Eldon Jossi

June 11, 2024
Date



Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting

May 14, 2024

2022-23 Visioning

Common Goal

A healthy Tualatin River watershed ensures quality of life and helps us adapt and thrive in the face of climate change. Tree for All aspires to work together on nature-based initiatives for a healthy watershed through strong partnerships that are equitable and based on trust.

Shared Values

- Strong partnerships
- Community
- Ecosystems
- Equity
- Quality of life

implementing the vision

PLANNING
COMMITTEE

coordination + support for **collective impact**

WORKING
GROUPS

baseline for **action + metrics**

CONVENER

structure and guidance for **resources**

FACILITATORS

foster trust and **build connections**

STORYTELLING

share information with **strategic networks with compelling stories**

implementing the vision



Healthy Tree Canopy
Initiative



Habitat Connectivity
Initiative



Partner
Engagement



Healthy Tree Canopy

Purpose: Create a healthy tree canopy throughout Washington County/Tualatin River Watershed

Goals:

Phase 1: Establish healthy canopy guidelines



Phase 2: Find funding to implement/care for canopy

Habitat Connectivity

- **What have we been working on?**

We attended the Regional Habitat Connectivity Working Groups' workshop in February to learn and share tools to prioritize connectivity projects across the region
TRWC and TSWCD have been piloting use of the RHCWG data to guide project identification
We are planning a Habitat Connectivity workshop for April.

- **What is the purpose of the workshop?**

To learn and share regional habitat connectivity toolkit and set priority projects for the Tualatin Basin
Consensus and shared understanding
Relationship building and trust

- **What outcomes do we expect from the workshop?**

Identify types of priority projects and build connections to partner network.
Understanding of habitat connectivity toolkit and consensus on applying it

- **What are the next steps?**

A poll with workshop questions and date options will be sent out in March.
The team will develop a case study of habitat connectivity opportunities to present at the workshop
We will communicate with potential participants to prepare them for the workshop goals

Thank you

