

Amended

Approved

Date 10/19/10

Recorder Janice Calkins

Chair Darin Olson

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District 2010 Annual Meeting

Location: Salem KROC Center
1865 Bill Frey Dr NE,
Salem, OR

Date: October 18, 2010

Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

There were 78 people in attendance.

WELCOME / SIGN IN

Guests were first greeted by Patrick Pirtle and a “welcome” sign, situated in the main lobby of the KROC center directing them toward the facility’s adjoining conference rooms (*the Birch, Cedar and Aspen*) where dinner would be served and the Annual Meeting held. A \$5.00 meal charge was collected from each guest by staff members Jane Keppinger and Susan Ortiz, and each guest was asked to sign a guest list. Guests wishing to partake of dinner were required to make their reservations by October 13, 2010. Reservations received were for 90, however, only 78 people ultimately attended. The rooms were arranged with 12 circular tables, (*each seating a maximum of 8 guests*), a podium, and full slide down screen toward the center of the room. A buffet dinner was set up along one side of the room on 2-3 / 6’ rectangular tables (also draped in cloth). The meal included: flat iron steak with berry demi-glaze, halibut provencal, vegetable medley, wild rice pilaf, two salads, a dinner roll and beverage. The KROC’s catering group had decorated each table by placing a circular off- white colored table cloth, and black colored cloth napkins attractively folded; clear glass water goblets and pitchers filled with ice-water. Awaiting each guest there was a generous serving of cream-cheese frosted carrot cake/or a sumptuous piece of decadent chocolate cake, along with a bag of Sea Salt Potato Chips donated by Kettle Foods, Inc.. The rooms overall presentation was enhanced by the District’s placement of assorted autumn themed floral arrangements and accents.

Call to Order/Dinner

Jane Keppinger welcomed everyone to Marion Soil and Water Conservation District’s 39th Annual Dinner/Meeting and then introduced the District’s Board Chair and Director: Darin Olson. Olson also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and then introduced the District’s Board of Directors, Associate Directors, Director Emeritus and other distinguished guests, that were present.

Door Prizes Given

Jane Keppinger together with Janice Calkins and Patrick Pirtle then drew door prize tickets from a concealed container and announced a series of winning numbers from the tickets selected. Gifts donated by: AC Gilbert Discovery Village, Ankeny Vineyard Winery, Champoeg Nursery and Great Harvest Bread were disbursed accordingly. This completed the first round of 3 separate drawings that would occur during the meeting, to award door prizes.

Summary of Accomplishments/Financial Report

Olson then stepped forward to present an overview of the evenings outlined agenda and announced he was proud to be involved with the District and the work it is doing. His hope was that everyone would go home with a greater understanding and appreciation of the conservation work being accomplished in Marion County. On that note he then presented details from the District's Financial Report, citing that the District was doing well and that it was prudent in its spending. Note: Upon each guest's table, there lie copies of the evening's program/agenda which included copies of the District's Financial Report. Guests were enabled to read along with Olson as the financial figures were reported.

Programs & Accomplishments

Keppinger then stepped forward to provide a visual power-point presentation, which highlighted some of the projects and programs Staff had worked on in 2010. Included were projects completed through the District's financial assistance programs like the Landowner Assistance Program (LAP); Special Projects Grant (SPG); CLEAR Grant (Conservation Learning Education and Resources Grant). Also highlighted, was work accomplished aided by funding received from OWEB Small Grants (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's small grant program). Some of those projects included: brush management/removal (*blackberry*); addressing drainage problems in heavy use areas; adding gutters to out buildings/barns to divert water away from areas that accumulated water and mud during the wet season, thereby making the area(s) more inhabitable for livestock and owner(s); adding vegetation along riparian borders, construction of a manure/compost storage facility and more. The Manure Exchange Program, Invasive Weed Survey Project (*along the Santiam River*), Oregon Envirothon, the District's Annual Poster Contest, Water Quality and Quantity monitoring programs, and District workshop offerings were also discussed.

More Door Prizes Given

Keppinger again stepped forward, along with Janice Calkins and Patrick Pirtle for round #2 of drawing more winners of door prizes. In this round, guests were awarded gifts received from: Greer Bros. Landscaping & Tree Service; Fred Meyer Store (*Market St., Salem*); Heritage Seedlings, Inc.; NORPAC Foods; Obersiner Nursery; and Marion SWCD.

Awards Presentation Followed:

Keppinger and a select number of Staff members then paid tribute and recognition to several community members who have worked hard to promote conservation work within Marion County. The awards were then presented as follows:

- Bob Koenig, "Cooperator of the Year" (*presented by Jenny Meisel*).
- Robert Baum (not in attendance), "Outstanding Associate Director"
Jane Keppinger sadly informed the audience that Bob was not able to attend the meeting, and might never attend another meeting again, as his valiant battle with cancer was coming to a close, and quickly so. Keppinger provided a review of his long time career supporting conservation work in Oregon, from its early inception to present day. Retirement did not stop him, his work and contributions have continued through volunteer service work for the District and several other important community endeavors- up until most recently. Bob's service and friendship will be remembered; his presence will be deeply missed.
- Nancy Umeda, Houck Middle School, "Educator of the Year" (*presented by Ron Crouse*)
- Kate Holm and Carl Holm, "Habitat Restoration" (*presented to Kate by Scott Eden*)

- Stacy Cooke, “Volunteer of the Year” (*presented by Ron Crouse*)
- Jarod Seaman, “Technical Service Award” (*presented by Scott Eden*)
- OSU Master Gardeners of Marion County, “Special Recognition” (*award presented by Jenny Meiser to: Roger Kieffer, Jan Shidler and June Zink*)
- Dr. Paul Jepson & Mary Halbleib, OSU, “Special Thank You!” (*awards presented to D. Jepson by Scott Eden*)

Keppinger also gave acknowledgement to the recipients of the Stan Vistica Memorial 2010 Scholarship Program which awarded: Andrew Puerini - \$1,000.00 and Kelsey Lance - \$500.00 (*both students are continuing their education through College*).

Keppinger advised everyone that the profits from the District’s Annual Native Plant Sale are used to fund this program. These scholarships are given to students attending college in pursuit of a degree in the Natural Resources Conservation or related field(s).

Door Prizes Given

Jane Keppinger, Janice Calkins and Patrick Pirtle again drew door prize tickets from a concealed container in this final round of door prize give-a-ways. Award winners were selected by the lucky draw of the duplicate numbers they held, and gifts were provided them as received by the following donors: Schreiner’s Iris Gardens; The Ram Restaurant & Brewery; Water Lab Corp. and Wildbirds Unlimited Nature Shop.

Close Business Meeting

At approximately 8:28 PM Darin Olson, Board Chair/Director, officially closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Janice (Bryant) Calkins.