

## Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting

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Location: Salem USDA Service Center Conference Room  
650 Hawthorne Ave. SE, Ste. 130, Salem, OR 97301-5894  
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2009  
Time: 7:05 PM to 9:37 PM

*Actions and follow-up items (notes) are italicized.*

### ATTENDANCE:

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Associates / Directors Emeritus</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests / Partners</u>
Ackland, Emily	Baum, Robert	Calkins, Janice	Bachelor, Les - NRCS
Carr, Joanne	Bowman, Quentin	DeStefanis, Luca	Dave Etzel - Citizen
Krahmer, Doug	Dyk, Robert	Keppinger, Jane	Fanny Etzel - Citizen
McKinley, Brian	Hardy, Leland		Miller, Jim - Citizen
Miller, Jayne			
Olson, Darin			

### NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Associates</u>	<u>Directors Emeritus</u>
Harper, Sara Jane	Bishop, Ryan	
	Clouser, Marilyn	
	Fisher, Ralph	
	Harper, Myron	

## BOARD MEETING

### ADMINISTRATIVE

**Call Meeting to Order:** Doug Krahmer, Chairman of the Board, called the Board Meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Introductions:** Introductions of all persons present were made.

### **Public Comment**

Jayne Miller asked to share a letter she had personally received with the Board. She indicated that the letter was addressed to Marion SWCD in care of her. Miller proceeded to read the letter, which was actually a very short note. In the note, a local resident voiced her opinion that organic growers do not currently get the same type of support and grants that other type crops / farmers receive. This support she hopes will be changed to include organic farming / farmers. No other public comments were made.

Time: Approximately 7:12 PM, enter two new guests (Mr. & Mrs. Etzel) into the meeting room. Introductions made. Krahmer indicated to these new guests, that the Board was currently in the process of taking public comments and asked if they wished to make any comments at this time. They responded, that they simply wished to see how the meeting was conducted, and to watch it progress. Meeting continued forward, in accordance to the written agenda.

### **July 1, 2009, Board Meeting Minutes**

The July 1, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed by the Board members. When asked if there was any need to make corrections or changes to the Board meeting minutes content, Ackland responded that she would like to see a slight change in the wording used under the Discussion section following the Administrative Committee's report (see pg. # 5).

Ackland said the wording used did not effectively convey the concern she had about Keppinger requesting a COLA increase. Ackland's suggested changes were noted and will be made as requested.

**ACTION:**

*Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the amended meeting minutes for the July 1, 2009 Board Meeting which will include the change in wording to the discussion section, page 5. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by McKinley. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

**June 2009 Treasurer's Report**

Keppinger reminded the Board members that they had each been mailed copies of the June 2009 Reconciliation Detail report and of the Bank's Statement, for the District's Checking Account. Both statements agreed that the balance ending on June 30, 2009 was \$118,865.52. The Reconciliation Detail report and the Office of the State Treasurer's Bank Statement for the Local Government Investment Pool account were also included in that mailing. Each of those statements confirmed the balance ending on June 30, 2009 was \$1,721,337.90.

**July 2009 Treasurer's Report**

Keppinger also reviewed the July 2009 financials with the Board, pointing out that both the Bank Statement for the District's Checking account and the District's Quikbook Reconciliation Detail Report agreed the balance was \$68,445.95 as of the end of day, July 31, 2009. The Local Government Investment Pool Account was also reviewed. Both Bank Statement and the District's Reconciliation Detail report, agreed that the balance held in the LGIP ending on July 31, 2009 was \$1,683,845.26. Keppinger pointed out, that the interest rate being paid on these funds is at an all time low: less than 1%. There was little financial activity for the month, and very little to be reviewed. The Board was also reminded that this is the first month within our new 2000 - 2010 Fiscal Year (which began July 1<sup>st</sup>), which explains the limited activity.

**DISCUSSION:**

*Ackland addressed Keppinger asking what the percentage of increase in taxes levied this year was. Keppinger responded that "she has used a 4% calculation. "The District has attained 100% of this projected tax income over the past 4 years. Some folks have used a 5% calculation. But to date, the 4% has been very accurate," she said. Emily Ackland the District's acting Secretary/Treasurer also advised the Board that she has rearranged her personal schedule so that she now has time to visit the District office each month, to review and compare the monthly Bank Statements to the District's Quikbook report, when those Bank Statements are first received..*

**ACTION:**

*Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the Treasurer's Financial Report for July 2009 as submitted. Ackland 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.*

**August and September 2009 Calendar's Reviewed**

Krahmer asked the Board members to review both the August and September, 2009 calendars and to advise if any changes or corrections were needed. The times noted for both the Program Committee and Education and Outreach Committee meetings were noted as being questionable. It was agreed by the Board members, that the times proposed for the meetings, worked for them. Therefore the Program Committee will commence at 6:00 PM and the Education and Outreach Committee at 6:30 PM, as noted. No other changes or concerns about the calendar were noted.

**Staff and Board Acknowledgements**

Keppinger advised the Board that Keldah Hedstrom, the District's newest Resource Conservationist is working with McKay High School FFA, Marion-Polk Food Share, and Pence Kelly Construction Co. on a LAP project. The School was a recipient of a LAP grant and they will be building a composting shed on the School property. Keldah represented Marion SWCD at a recent meeting, of about 10 different professionals, to coordinate and spur the group into taking action to begin the project. Included in the group were representatives of Marion/Polk Food Share, McKay High School and the Pence Kelly Construction. The compost facility will be a 2 to 3 bin structure, Keppinger said. And to help facilitate its construction (due to limited financial resources) the roof will not be installed this year. McKay High is situated in a troubled neighborhood, and due to vandalism, the unit must be virtually indestructible. Manure acquired will be placed into the structure, and eventually food wastes from the School's cafeteria will be added for composting. The compost will then be used in the School's garden, where produce will be grown for Marion/Polk Food Share. Students will be used to help solicit donated materials from local suppliers and in the actual construction of the facility. This is a huge undertaking. "For being on Staff now for only

4-5 months, Keldah has proven herself to be a very fast learner, very professional, and enthusiastic. Kudos for Keldah! She is doing a great job!"

## REPORTS

### Legislative / Current Events

Quentin Bowman presented his monthly report, highlighting recent news headlines that relate to our environment, sources of energy, conservation and the earth's natural resources. Below are a few highlights from his report:

- BPA (Bonneville Power Administration) has marked hydro power makes up 40% of the NW's consumed energy. Wind power overtaxes the transmission wires. When the wind blows, hydro can be ramped up or down to balance supply and demand. In hot or cold periods wind generated power is unreliable to meet peak loads.
- A Pennsylvania firm is in an early step to build a new kind of chemical coated foil batter which could replace gasoline in cars and make use of wind and solar power easier to integrate into the power grid.
- Governor Kulongoski signed 7 bills which will keep Oregon forward on the clean energy front.
- Lithium-ion batteries aren't ready for tough road conditions. Problems include lot of heat, no infrastructure for recycling and very heavy (400# avg.)
- Logging: the Clinton plan of the 1990's will be followed although it never provided the amount of lumber it envisioned due to the spotted owl protection. The collapse of the housing industry and recession has left timber communities like Douglas County, OR with an 18.3% unemployment rate.
- Since 2005, 16% of Oregon's lumber mills have closed leaving only 9 mills operating in Eastern Oregon. Harvest reductions have resulted in loss of jobs and biomass production, also less timber thinning money.
- Northwest glaciers are shrinking which has an impact on late summer flows. Only 4% of our NE domestic water supply comes from glaciers but stream flow for fish and other wildlife will suffer.
- The USDA's chief announced \$3 million will be directed to technical assistance to farmers to improve water conditions on their lands. The program is voluntary. It includes conserving water as well as improving water quality.

### NRCS Report

Les Bachelor indicated to the Board that they should have received ten (10) conservation plan proposals. Two (2) of these would be under WHIP and eight (8) under EQIP. It was found, that only nine (9) plans had been received. The missing document related to a 2<sup>nd</sup> conservation plan intended for David Delaney. Bachelor asked if the Board might entertain a review and approval of it, based on information he could provide verbally to them now. It was agreed they would. Of the nine (9) proposed plans received, they were then advised that the plan submitted for Veeman Dairy, LLC, could be set aside. NRCS was still pending a signed contract back from this landowner, therefore Bachelor asked the Board to postpone making a decision on this proposed plan until next month. The following plans were reviewed: (1) B & G Ditchen, LLC (EQIP), (2) David Delaney (EQIP), (3) GNH, Inc. (EQIP), (4) Delaney (EQIP), (5) Goschie Farms, Inc. (EQIP), (6) Heritage Seedling, Inc. (WHIP), (7) William Seeber (EQIP), (8) Dean Yeager (EQIP), (9) Dean Yeager (WHIP).

#### *ACTION:*

*Miller motioned that the Board approve all plans submitted, with the exception of the (2) plans discussed. (1) For David Delaney, and the (2) for GNH, Inc., as a package deal. Thereby one vote cast, would approve or not approve all. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Olson. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.*

*Olson then motioned for the Board to accept and approve the conservation plans submitted for all of the following: (1) B & G Ditchen, LLC (EQIP), (2) Goschie Farms, Inc. (EQIP), (3) Heritage Seedling, Inc. (WHIP), (4) William Seeber (EQIP), (5) Dean Yeager (EQIP), (6) Dean Yeager (WHIP). Carr 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

*Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the conservation plan for **David Delaney (EQIP)**. Carr 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no discussion. McKinley and Miller voted against. Ackland, Carr, Krahmer and Olson voted in favor. Motion was passed by majority vote.*

*Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the conservation plan submitted for **GNH, Inc.**, under the EQIP plan. Carr 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no discussion. Miller voted against. Ackland, Carr, Krahmer, McKinley and Olson voted in favor of. Motion passed by majority vote.*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> plan for David Delaney was discussed and reviewed. Olson then motioned for the Board to accept and approve the plan verbally submitted for David Delaney under the EQIP plan. McKinley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no discussion. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### NRCS Funding Report to Date

Bachelor indicated to the Board that NRCS had finally received its funding for the year. The following is how the monies received breakdown to date:

#### EQIP – Funding Pools

- AFO / CAFO \$ 149,815
- Irr. Crop \$ 547,957
- Soil & Water Quality \$ 62,780
- Organic – Certified \$ 44,336
- Organic – Transition \$ 36,502

EQIP – FA to Date = \$ 841,390

EQIP – TA to Date = \$ 20,645

Total EQIP = \$ 862,035 + \$ 1,875 = \$ 863,910

Forestry Stewardship Plan

#### WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAMS

WHIP – FA to Date = \$ 198,875

- TOTAL FUNDING TO DATE FOR MARION COUNTY
 

\$ 863,910	+ \$ 198,875
\$1,062,785	
<i>PLUS</i>	
<u>\$ 300,000 for AWEP</u>	
<u>\$ 1,362,785</u>	

Bachelor distributed copies of NRCS / CRD's "Civil Rights Compliance Review Guide" to each Board member asking that they re-familiarize themselves with it. "At the next Board meeting, we will conduct a training session on Civil Rights".

Bachelor indicated a CSP (Conservation Security Program) sign-up started on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August and the deadline date for signups will end September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This information will be promoted and published in the newspaper and a postcard mailing is scheduled to go out. "If a landowner is eligible for EQIP, they are also eligible for CSP", Bachelor said. NRCS has a nice publication available titled "Does CSP Fit You" – it's a handy guide that can answer many questions for those who want to know if they might qualify or if the program is a good fit for their operation.

### NRCS / SWCD AWEP Partnership Agreement

The Board had been provided copies of the new Partnership Agreement (#68-0436-9-06) between Marion SWCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service through provisions of the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program (AWEP) to review and approve. Bachelor asked if there were any questions or concerns about the agreement. Carr asked how long the agreement would last. Bachelor responded that it was good for a period of five years. Several Directors spoke in favor of the agreement, saying it was a good partnership arrangement and that the document had been written well.

#### ACTION:

Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the agreement between Marion SWCD and USDA NRCS through provisions of the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program # 68-0436-9-061 as submitted. Miller 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### Administrative Committee

Hardy advised the Board that the Administrative Committee had met in July. The Committee, he reported, is continuing its review of the District's organizational chart. It has also elected to withdraw its proposal from the table for the time being, regarding a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) increase. The Committee will work to gather current information, salary comparisons with the District's competition, as requested by the Board. Hardy then indicated that the District's Dental and Health Plans needed to be renewed at this time. The Committee is recommending that the District renew with the current provider. There has been about a 3% increase over last year. The Committee reviewed three health insurance plans and

Staff reviewed nine (9) plans. The Committee is recommending we renew with our current provider. There is a 23% increase this year. The average increase over the last three (3) years has been about the same. Last year, the District received a 6% decrease. Hardy indicated that the District's insurance rep, feels that through the plans held, the District is receiving very high benefits for the cost. It was also noted in conversation that Keppinger has budgeted each year to allow for insurance increases. A motion will be needed to approve a renewal of these plans. The Committee, he said, also discussed payouts of vacation funds. As it now stands, an employee may only carry over 240 hours of vacation each year. If any hours in excess of this number are not used, the hours are lost. When viewing this policy from the standpoint of how it benefits the District, we feel a compromise is needed. Of course, managing ones leave time during the year, does enter into the discussion, he said.

*DISCUSSION (food for thought):*

*It was mentioned in conversation that some agencies / businesses are now opting to allow vacation and sick time to be used interchangeably. Would the Board wish to consider this arrangement in the future?*

## **Program Committee**

*Olson gave a quick review of the topics covered in the July Program Committee meeting as follows:*

### **LAP Policy Changes / Updates**

*The Committee reviewed a list of suggested policy changes and updates to the LAP program, which were submitted by Luca DeStefanis. The Committee would like to recommend these changes be implemented, and ask the Board's support / approval later in the evening, once new business topics are covered.*

### **Conservation Easements**

*The Committee was also presented a request from the City of Salem asking if Marion SWCD would like to partner with them, and act as an overseer on a conservation easement that has been established. By law the SWCD can hold a conservation easement, he said. At this point in time, we do not feel confident about all the legalities and responsibilities involved, and therefore have not elected to take on the responsibility. The Committee doe however, feel the Board needs to give conservation easements real consideration. They (the Board) should be open to the possibility of them, and may wish to research further into the legal requirements and ramifications of such involvement. Do we wish to address easements in New Business?*

### **Marion / Polk Food Share & McKay High School**

*Olson also acknowledged that the Program Committee had met with Keldah Hedstrom (Staff Resource Conservationist) regarding her work with Marion/Polk Food Share and McKay High School, and they support the project proposed. As Keppinger has already outlined the work to be done there, he would continue his report about the other items discussed at the meeting.*

### **Engineering SOQ (Statements of Qualifications)**

*Olson indicated that Scot Eden, Keldah Hedstrom and John Gillilan of NRCS (as a team) had reviewed and ranked each Engineering SOQ received, according to best qualifications, and presented their list of top contenders to the Program Committee. The Program Committee reviewed the list and cast their votes in favor of the team's recommended top three contenders: Pillar, H & R and CES NW. Note: Lee Hardy abstained from discussion on the basis of a declared conflict of interest. The Program Committee in turn recommends that the Board also accept and approve the three nominees selected, thereby allowing the District to receive construction bids from each of them, when and as needed. The Board members will cast their votes when New Business items are discussed.*

### **Organics Sub-Committee Report:**

*Olson indicated that the Program Committee continued its discussions on forming an organics subcommittee. "There was a little misunderstanding and debate during the meeting, Olson said. But ultimately the Committee members moved to support the creation of a comprehensive list of Organics Resources. This information can then be disseminated with Staff. We can discuss this matter further in New Business".*

### **DISCUSSION:**

*A few individuals at the meeting wished to initiate a more in depth discussion about Organic farming, however, Krahmer reigned in the discussions to a halt, stating there was a lot on this evening's agenda yet to be covered. Any questions, concerns or opinions relating to Organics could and should be discussed at the next Program Committee Meeting he said. He also reminded everyone present, that all District Committee meetings are open to the public. Visitors are encouraged and welcomed he said. It was also noted that Governor Kulongoski's has decreed September 14 through 20th to be:*

*"Organically Grown in Oregon Week". This action was made to honor and provide recognition to the Organic Farmer. This official designation was recently advertised in the Capital Press Newspaper, on July 17, 2009. During discussion, it was agreed, that there was little time available for the District to roll out anything in large scale to support the event. The District could, however, put a blurb on its website advertising the occasion to show its support of organics.*

**ACTION:**

*Olson motioned that staff come up with some suggestions on how to best support: "Organically Grown in Oregon Week (September 14 – 20, 2009) and to have them report back during the September meeting. Carr 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

**Weather Stations:**

*We understand that Tualatin Valley Water District is promoting the use of moisture, temp, wind and precipitation sensors for residential irrigators. The Committee has asked Staff to research further into their findings to see if such a program / or a similar program could be implemented here at Marion SWCD.*

**Education and Outreach Committee**

Carr advised the Board that the Education and Outreach Committee meeting had been cancelled in July, therefore there was nothing to report.

**Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)**

Keppinger reported that OACD held its quarterly meeting in Medford, OR last month. She announced that Executive Director, Gary Whitney, was not longer with the Association as of last week. The Association is currently working With issues like the Freedom of Privacy, Information and Public Records laws. Keppinger is herself, on a Committee to see how these three topics mesh. Currently there is an issue which related to how the SWCD's records are being stored on USDA NRCS federal system. We have a November 3, deadline date to define protection of information.

Keppinger then advised the group that South Salem High School team members scored 33<sup>rd</sup> place at the National Canon Envirothon competition held in North Carolina. The students, though overwhelmed, did a good job. It was found that there were no winning teams from areas west of the Missouri River.

Keppinger then advised the Board that OACD will hold its 2009 Annual Meeting this year in Pendleton, OR. The four day event is scheduled for November 4 – 7, 2009. She encouraged everyone to mark their calendars and to plan on attending it.

With regards to legislative matters, Keppinger reported that both OACD and the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) have worked hard to make changes in ballot measures. Over the years it had become apparent that counties big and small are not equated fairly when billed for any ballot measures needed (for example getting public approval / support for a tax base). The size and wealth of a particular county apparently had no bearing on the formula used to determine the amount charged. An example of this was how Tualatin was charged \$75,000.00 and Eugene: \$55,000.00. The Secretary of State has been asked to reformulate 10 Ballot titles. OACD & SDAO deserve huge kudos! Thanks to their hard work, 44 other Districts may now be able to pursue "Tax Bases!"

Keppinger also reminded everyone that OACD officer's terms will be expiring soon. There has been real interest generated for the positions that will be coming available, and pending staff, OACD should be up and functioning soon.

**Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC)**

Krahmer reported that the SWCC held its July meeting only recently. The Commission worked on the strategic plan. The approved plan will become an item on all quarterly meetings. Krahmer then passed around some informational papers for the Board members to read.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There were no items to be discussed under "Old Business".

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Marion SWCD Annual Meeting – What / When / Where**

Janice Calkins, Staff Office Coordinator, addressed the Board indicating the time had arrived for the District to consider what it wanted to do for an annual meeting this year. Did the Board wish to hold a short, quick public gathering, where dessert items such as pies or cookies could be served afterwards? Or would they prefer to hold a public meeting where dinner would also be served? The Board was then asked to review a list she had compiled, which provided menu selections and costs charged by local restaurants, hotels, even high schools for the use of their facilities and services. The list also included individual catering options as well as a selection of halls / conference rooms that are available for rent in the area. After some discussion it was decided that the Board preferred to hold a meeting and dinner combination type event. They also elected to hold the event in Mount Angel at the Benedictine Sister's Hospitality Center, and have Shaw's Quality Meats and Catering provide the food. Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> had been selected as a possible meeting date, and the Board agreed the date would work for them and therefore approved it as the appointed day for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

**ACTION:**

*Robert Dyk, Associate Director initiated the following motion. McKinley officiated it, repeating that he motioned for the Board to accept and approve the recommendation to hold its 2009 Annual Meeting at the Benedictine Sister's Hospitality Room, that the District donate \$400.00 to the Sisters for use of their facility, and that Shaw's Quality Meats and Catering Services be contracted to provide a BBQ Dinner for the event, which is to be held on Monday, October 26, 2009. Olson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center**

The Board received a written request from the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center for its continued sponsorship and support of the work they do. Straub offers a vast array of educational programs, which includes their Environmental Lecture Series that began back in 2004. The District is being asked to contribute (once again) \$3,500.00 in support of their program(s).

**ACTION:**

*Ackland motioned for the Board to accept and approve the request from Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, and to contribute \$3,500.00 to them, in support of their (2009-2010) program(s). Carr 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Olson questioned whether or not a donation had been given Straub yet this year? Keppinger replied, "No, as this "new (fiscal) year" has just begun. Keppinger also indicated that the contribution to "Straub" would be paid out of the Special Projects fund, as it was last year, if approved. Motion was then passed by a unanimous vote.*

**Audit Services Agreement Letter**

Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C. (*Certified Public Accountants and Consultants*), has submitted its annual Audit Services Agreement Letter, Keppinger announced. Each of you, have been provided a copy of the letter received, for your review and approval.

**ACTION:**

*McKinley motioned for the Board to accept and approve the request from Grove, Mueller & Swank, P.C. to continue its services as provider of Audits for a cost not to exceed \$4,400.00, as stated in letter of agreement. Carr 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

**District Annual Work Plan**

Keppinger indicated that each Board member had been provided a draft copy of the 2009-2010 Annual Work Plan. She now asked that they accept and approve the plan, as is submitted. She also commended the Staff for the work done/ and that will be done, in support of District's goals.

**ACTION:**

Olson motioned that the Board accept and approve the 2009-2010 Annual Work Plan as submitted. Ackland 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

**Renew Health and Dental Insurance Plans**

Krahmer reminded the Board that the Administrative Committee has recommended that the District renew its Health and Dental plans currently offered. You have each been provided copies of the letters received from Providence Health Plans and The ODS Companies (Willamette Dental). Do I hear a motion?

**ACTION:**

*Ackland motioned for the Board to approve the renewal of the District's current Health and Dental plans: (1) Providence Health Plans, and (2) the ODS Companies (Willamette Dental), for a period of one year. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Olson. There was no further discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **Landowner Assistance Team Priorities**

Krahmer addressed the Board indicating each member had been provided copies of the "Landowner Assistance Team Priorities." It was stated that much has remained the same. If there are no questions do we have a motion to approve it?

#### *ACTION:*

*Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the "Landowner Assistance Team Priorities" list, as submitted. McKinley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **Qualified List of Engineering Firms**

Krahmer reminded the Board that there was before them, a recommendation for three (3) Qualified Engineering Firms, who were selected for their "best fit" with this District. Do I hear a motion to accept and approve the recommendations submitted?

#### *ACTION:*

*Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the recommendation made by the Program Committee, to authorize the District to accept Engineering construction bids from (1) Pillar, (2) H & R and (2) CES NW- when and as needed. McKinley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no discussion. Motion was passed by a unanimous vote.*

### **Holding Conservation Easements**

Keppinger addressed the Board and restated that the City of Salem approached us at the Program Committee level about a Conservation Easement. What to you feel about this? Do we as a District want to do easements? She asked. There was an open discussion and questions and concerns were voiced. **In conclusion it was decided that Conservation easements are something this district will be open to.** Every easement is different and unique from another. The District would like to receive more training and become better educated on the legalities and responsibilities associated with easements. It was suggested that Yamhill SWCD might be consulted, as they have had personal experience dealing with easement(s). Also suggested, was that the District speak with the State Association (OACD) to see if they too, might provide any guidance on this subject.

### **Flow Stations – Equipment Upgrade & Replacement**

Keppinger addressed the Board and relayed a request sent by Mark Hadden, the Districts Flow-Monitoring Specialist. "Hadden is requesting that the District purchase some new monitoring equipment. The equipment he has requested will help to cut our costs by about 1/3 (one-third), and improve employee safety. Hadden has requested three electronic tapes (E-tapes) for three water measuring sites. These tapes will be suspended down a vertical pipe (well) and when the creek water surface is contacted an immediate signal (audio plus electronic) is given. Also needed are: E-tape control unit and a staff gauge for each site; plus nails, washers, etc. The cost of these items plus shipping equal: \$ 1,153.00. Do we have a motion to authorize the purchase?"

#### *ACTION:*

*McKinley motioned for the Board to authorize Keppinger to purchase the flow monitoring equipment, requested by Mark Hadden in the amount of \$1,153.00. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ackland. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:37 PM.**

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2009 and beginning at 7:00pm.  
Location: Salem USDA's Service Center Conference Room  
650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Ste. #130, Salem, OR 97301-5894

**Minutes submitted by Janice (Bryant) Calkins**

