

## 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, January 6, 2010  
Time: 7:04PM to 9:30 PM

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

### ATTENDANCE:

#### Directors

Ackland, Emily  
Carr, Joanne  
Harper, Sara Jane  
Krahmer, Doug  
McKinley, Brian  
Miller, Jayne  
Olson, Darin

#### Associates / Directors Emeritus

Baum, Robert  
Hardy, Leland  
Harper, Myron

#### Staff

Calkins, Janice  
Keppinger, Jane  
Meisel, Jenny

#### Guests / Partners

Bachelor, Les – NRCS  
Fields, Mark – Citizen  
Mr. and Mrs. Martz – Citizens  
Eric Martz – child (citizen)  
& two brothers (citizens)  
Mr. & Mrs. Yenne - Citizens

### NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

#### Directors

#### Associates

Bishop, Ryan  
Bowman, Quentin  
Clouser, Marilyn  
Dyk, Robert

#### Directors

#### Emeritus

## BOARD MEETING

### ADMINISTRATIVE

**Call Meeting to Order:** Doug Krahmer, Chairman of the Board, called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **POSTER CONTEST AWARD WINNER**

Janice Calkins gave the Board and their guests, a quick overview of the District's 2009 Annual Poster Contest, which provides students in grades K-5 the opportunity to study a conservation subject, design a poster that depicts what they have learned, and win fabulous prizes along the way. The theme for the 2009 Annual Poster Contest was "Dig It" "The Secrets of Soil".

Calkins reported that the level of participation in this year's contest was down considerably. Our contest roll-out occurred at the same time that many schools were facing announcements of severe budget cuts for the upcoming school year. Fearing that their teachers would not be able to address normal, required curriculum activities during a shortened school year, many principals chose not to pass the information along to their teaching staff, thereby eliminating what they thought to a more frivolous activity from their Teacher's already busy agendas. Fortunately several teachers (whom had participated in our Poster Contest last year), contacted the District on their own initiative to see if they could be included in this years program, and a few classes from District's not facing budget cuts, also registered. The contest was a go, despite a slow signup!

Calkins explained that there are three levels of competition: (1) District, (2) State and (3) National. Winning entries from the District's contest become eligible and are then submitted to compete in the State Level Contest. And so it goes. Calkins indicated she had the honor, as representative of OACD (Oregon Association of Conservation Districts) to award FIRST PLACE WINNER, Eric Martz his prize. Eric's 2009 poster entry, won not only first place in the K-First Grade category in the District level Poster contest, but also First Place in the State's. Eric Martz, who was now in attendance with his family, was asked to step forward to receive his award. Eric was then presented an official OACD certificate along with a \$50.00 US

Savings Bond, for his winning entry. He was then wished the best of luck, as his Poster is reviewed at the national level through NACD's (National Association of Conservation District's) 2009 Annual Poster Contest.

Eric Martz was asked who his Teacher was at Candalaria Elementary School last year, and he responded by pointing to Debbie Yenne (who was also in attendance at the meeting). Debbie was then thanked for the part she played in making this award celebration possible, and for educating and instilling an appreciation about our natural resources and conservation in her students. Calkins then presented Mrs. Yenne a few items in appreciation for her work: an official award certificate, an ample supply of scratch paper and pens, a couple of posters pertaining to conservation and a few other miscellaneous items that she will find useful in the classroom.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments made.

**December 2, 2009, Board Meeting Minutes**

The December 2, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes were reviewed by the Board members. There were no suggestions for changes made regarding the minutes content.

*ACTION:*

*Ackland motioned for the Board to accept and approve the Board meeting minutes for December 2, 2009 as submitted. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by McKinley. There was no further discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

**December 2009 Treasurer's Report**

Keppinger provided the financials report to the Board for December 2009. She began with a review of the District's Local Government Investment Pool funds, noting that the balance holding was \$2,124,034.51 on 12/31/2009. This amount was seen to be in agreement on both the Office of the State Treasurer's bank statement, and the District's Quick Book reconciliation Detail Report. Keppinger pointed out to the board the fact that the interest rate paid on these investment monies, has continued to drop and that the monthly average interest rate paid in December was only .6839%. The District's checking account activity report was then reviewed, and any and all questions regarding the checks paid out were addressed. The bank statement for the District's checking account was not available for review, as it had not yet been received. The activity detail report for the District's general fund was then reviewed and discussed as needed.

*ACTION:*

*Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve the Treasurer's Financial Report for December 2009 as submitted. Miller 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.*

**January 2010 and February 2010 Calendar's Reviewed**

Krahmer asked the Board members to review both the January 2010 and February 2010 calendars and to advise if any changes or corrections were needed. Carr asked if the Education and Outreach Committee Meeting scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> could be moved to Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed, the meeting would be rescheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup>. McKinley then indicated he had a conflict in schedules, and asked if the Program Committee meeting might be moved to Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> instead of the previously scheduled date of January 19<sup>th</sup>. This change was also approved. Keppinger and Krahmer then indicated that the new Computer Committee would be holding its first meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am (in the District's conference rooms), and asked that this event be added to the calendar. Looking then to February, Keppinger advised the board that OACD would be holding its commission meeting at the District Office on both Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. A correction in meeting times was then revealed for both the Program Committee Meeting and the Education and Outreach Committee, The correct starting time would be 6:00 PM for each, on February 16<sup>th</sup>. No other changes were requested.

**Staff and Board Acknowledgements**

No acknowledgements of Staff or Board members were made.

**REPORTS**

**Legislative / Current Events**

Quentin Bowman was not in attendance this evening; therefore no report was given.

**NRCS Report**

Les Bachelor reported that the application filing deadline date for both EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) and AWEF (Agricultural Water Enhancement Program) is January 22, 2010. Bachelor then voiced appreciation for: Scott Eden, and the assistance he has provided in recruiting EQIP sign-ups; Jarod Seaman, for his continuing help; Michele Tesdal, for returning to work on a part-time basis to help out; and for Josie Gibler (Salem NRCS's newest staff member). "It's nice having a full staff again", he said. With regards to the Minto Brown project; Bachelor indicated the project is now about 90% designed. He thanked the District for their assistance, and for the contributions made by Jenny Meisel and Ron Crouse.

### **Administrative Committee**

Hardy indicated that the Administrative Committee did not hold a meeting in the month of December and therefore, there was nothing to report.

### **Program Committee**

Olson reported that the Program Committee received an RCAP proposal for work along side Pringle Creek. The project area is pretty substantial in size, he said. The Committee will ask for the Boards approval, later this evening.

Olson then advised the group that the application form for a SPG grant is being rewritten, so to provide greater clarification as to whom can apply. Once the revised application meets Committee approval, the final draft will be submitted to the Board for their review / final approval.

Olson reported that the IPPC (Integrated Plant Protection Center) at OSU is asking Marion SWCD for a letter in support of their work project within the Pudding basin, where efforts are being made to improve water quality/quantity in the Mt. Angel area. The IPPC is requesting grant funding from USDA, and a letter of support will be of assistance to them. The Board will be asked to vote on this matter later in the meeting, Olson said.

Olson indicated that work is continuing on the engineered drawings for a new manure storage facility design. Nothing has yet been finalized he said. He then asked Keppinger if she might have anything updates to add. Keppinger responded that a draft drawing had been received during Christmas break, at a time when Scott Eden was away from the office. The drawing was forwarded to Lee Hardy, who is himself is an engineer and knows the needs of this District. Hardy caught a few items that might be of concern, and a couple of changes to the design are now being made.

Olson indicated that Scott Eden, (who is working with Dr. Jenkins of OSU to request funding through an OWEB WQ grant under the DEQ 319 program, in support of OSU's passive chemical/water samplings in the Pudding Watershed), has indicated they have reduced the amount in funding requested. This reduction will hopefully increase the odds of having the grant approved.

Olson also said Mark Hadden has reported that the water flow monitoring program is working well. All new systems are up and working well. Hadden hopes the Board will approve additional funding to support the purchase of new circuit boards/loggers, in 2010. Keppinger added that Mark had hoped to obtain a high flow measurement one day, but when he arrived on site he realized he had missed the high water event. The purpose behind the rating curve/ how water flows makes the information more credible and valuable, she explained. Hadden is working with Susan Ortiz, and hopes to have the water flow information updated to the District's website in the next couple of months. Keppinger supports Hadden's request for additional funding, to obtain updated data loggers.

### **Education and Outreach Committee**

S.J. Harper reported that the Education and Outreach Committee did not hold a meeting in December. Therefore, she too, had nothing to report.

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

Keppinger advised the Board that OACD will be holding its first quarterly meeting in 2010, on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Salem USDA Service Center (here). The Association is in the process of transition, she said, due to change in officers. One of the agenda items to be covered will be Association dues. Keppinger voiced some reservation about paying the same amount for dues as was paid last year, at least in one lump sum. Others voiced in that they felt the District should continue its full support of OACD, saying the Association's work is important and a vital link to legislature and other agencies, for all SWCD's within our State. Ackland also indicated that she plans to attend OACD's first Quarter meeting.

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

Krahmer addressed the Board and asked if he might provide some clarification as to what the SWCC does. First of all the SWCC is comprised of representatives from each District. A representative must also hold the title of a Director. There are seven ( 7) Districts within the State. One District in the region has a director who is appointed by ODA (Oregon Department

of Agriculture). This individual serves in an advisory role position to ODA; how best to affect funding to SWCD s. During last session \$5 mil was allocated to the Districts, and \$5 mil to the State's watershed councils. Later they added \$1 mil additional funding to each entity, giving a total allocation of \$6 mil. Usually called a Program Manager, this State employee oversees 2-3 employees whose roles such responsibilities as: bookkeeping, tabulating, check writing. The Program Manager works with the districts on personnel issues, legal issues. Keppinger or my-self, or other Districts could call on this person for guidance, Krahmer advised. This person is knowledgeable about State Statutes. At this point in time, I am the elected Chairman for the SWCC and I also serve on the State Board of AG (Agriculture). All other members of this State Board are appointed by the Governor. Agreements through the FED s (Federal Agency) are called contribution agreements. The SWCC decides how monies received will be allocated /distributed, and the Commission takes direct blame or credit for the designations made. Krahmer explained how Baker County has four (4) SWCD s and how funding is allocated according to a formula they have devised, to make it more equitable for all. Carr asked if exceptions were ever made (in the formula calculation), in the case that a district might be experiencing extreme hardship. Krahmer responded "Yes". Ackland asked if the SWCC was bound to the formula, and he responded "NO". It was explained that policy is whatever the Commission decrees by motion. From there it goes to ODA.

This information is a prelude to two (2) questions, and a motion on each is needed and wanted, Krahmer said. The first question: **(1) The Program Manager's role at ODA is now vacant.** Some of us feel the position is very much needed. The end result of that position is that it facilitates communication between the State and the Districts. The Clackamas SWCD for instance, had some recent personnel challenges and then had no one to turn to for guidance. Deschutes likewise, encountered some financial and personnel issues. Over the years, the Program Manager has proven to be an indispensable aid to many Districts, and many of us fear that the SWCD s will suffer if this position remains vacant. S.J. Harper inquired, "If we needed to obtain guidance, for any reason, who would we (the District) now turn to? Krahmer responded, "To SDAO (Special Districts Association of Oregon), or we could turn to Ray Jaindl, Natural Resources Administrator at ODA, or upward - which would take more time. S.J. Harper asked why ODA did not feel the Program Manager position was worthy to keep. It seemed it was more an issue of timing. ODA was asked to make some difficult budget cuts, at the same time that Larry Ojua had relinquished his position to pursue a new career. The cut needed, was approximately equal to his salary. Not filling the position was an easy way to meet the budget cut requirement – unfortunately, not perhaps the most thoughtful or best solution. Olson asked, "For argument's sake what good does our opinion serve?" Could the SWCD's help to fund the position? Krahmer responded saying that NRCS might assist with partial funding through a contribution agreement. Keppinger suggested another way to free up dollars, indicating the SWCC has another block of funds \$785,000 which they could allocate towards the position. Krahmer indicated he has leveraged all the power he has and that more leverage is still needed. Ackland agreed the Program Manager position is important, and asked that the Board motion to solicit signatures in support of filling it, from Directors of other State SWCD s. Ackland reminded everyone that the Program Manager represents ODA and the SWCD's at OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board), US Fish and Wildlife, and State Water Resources meetings – without this person, we have no voice. Carr voiced that "We should provide ODA our thoughts and ideas about some creative funding that can be used to fill the position". Keppinger indicated that an Ag Water Quality meeting was held recently and that the SWCD's were at the table. We are on the ground implementing and our work and actual dollars contributed to the work being done, triples that of what the State is putting in. Our funding mechanism is liable to be lost, and lost permanently. The bigger picture is we have no representative. Ackland voiced in that she would hate for the SWCD's to commit to any long-term support. Ackland also advised of the importance of keeping OACD separate from the SWCC. The State employee cannot represent the Districts. OACD is the political arm of the SWCD's - yet its employees cannot participate in any political activities.

**ACTION:**

*Olson motioned that the Board give its representative at the SWCC the authority to vote "yes" in favor of ODA filling its now vacant position of Program Manager, and that the District write and submit a letter of support and also solicit signatures from other District Directors within the State of Oregon, to document their support too. Ackland 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.*

**DISCUSSION:**

*Ackland would like to see each SWCD write a letter that explains the fiscal impact to their District(s) of losing the Program Manager position, and that each letter also be submitted to the ODA.*

**ACTION:**

*Motion was passed by unanimous vote.*

Krahmer then addressed the second (2) question to be asked of the Board: **The SWCC has \$785,000 available to allocate between the 45 Districts. What do you feel our priorities should be?** Olson asked if the monies could be used to fund Oregon Envirothon (a State-wide event)? Krahmer responded that that action might be a difficult sell. Krahmer

suggested, we could take \$500 K and divide it equally amongst the Districts. The Commission can hold on to it, not spending it up until the end of the Biennium. OWEB will take the monies back, if they are not used. Ackland suggested the monies could be used in support of OACD, as long as their activities are not politically based. or perhaps be used to fund the ODA, Program Manager position. Olson suggested the SWCC might take ½ million dollars, divide it amongst the Districts and use a portion remaining to partially fund the ODA position. McKinley suggested that the monies be distributed to all smaller Districts (and not Marion's) who are in greater need of resources. Keppinger agreed McKinley was correct that other Districts are in greater need of resources, however, the monies given in the last biennium were for all Districts as administrative support. All Districts should be given equal opportunity.

**ACTION:**

*It was decided that each Director will give the matter more thought and that they will be provide Krahmer their suggestions/ recommendations on how the money can be used - at the February Board Meeting.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Updated on 2010 SWCD Business Plan Meeting**

Keppinger reminded the Board that on Sunday, January 10 and Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> they (all members) will be attending a Business Planning Session at Mt. Angel's, Benedictine Sister's Shalom Center (1:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Sunday, and 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday). Dinner will be provided at 5:30 PM Sunday. Meta Loftsgarten, NRCS, will act as the meetings facilitator. On Monday, the District's Staff will join you for lunch and will then work with you until the meeting is concluded. The cost of the event (meals, snacks and rooms) is less than \$700.00. Everyone's attendance is encouraged, though not mandatory. We will work to finalize the District's future goals, altering perhaps 1-2 versions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominated & Elect 2010 Board Officers**

Krahmer advised the Board that it was time once again to elect new Board Officers. My position as Chairman of the Board is also up for renewal/reappointment, he said. I have served in this position now for a number of years and I am willing, should you wish me to, to serve for this one remaining year. I do believe however, that rotating leadership is good and that changes are healthy. Miller asked Krahmer if he wished to continue as Chair. Krahmer indicated he held mixed emotion, but responded he would accept the nomination. Olson's position as Vice Chair was also up for re-election. If voted to remain in this position, Olson would enter into his second year as such. Olson acknowledged Krahmer saying that he has done a terrific job as Chairman, but that he, (Olson) himself, would like the opportunity and experience to chair the meetings from now on. "My views are different than Krahmer's and I'd like to see the Board push on different funding issues. I'd also like the District to provide more assistance to homeowners".

**ACTION:**

Both Darin Olson and Doug Krahmer were nominated for the position of District Chair. The votes were taken. Votes cast were as follows:

Miller: Darin Olson;      Ackland: Doug Krahmer;      McKinley: Darin Olson;      Olson: (self) Olson;  
Krahmer: (self) Krahmer;      Carr: Doug Krahmer;      S.J. Harper: Darin Olson.

Final votes: 4 in favor of Olson, 3 in favor of Krahmer. There was no further discussion. Motion passed, appointing Darin Olson as the new District Chair for 2010.

Emily Ackland was nominated for position of Vice-Chair by Olson. Ackland accepted the nomination. S.J. Harper nominated Brian McKinley. McKinley declined. Nominations for Vice-Chair were closed by Krahmer. Votes were taken. A unanimous vote was cast by all, in favor of Ackland as District Vice-Chair. Motion was passed.

It was explained that law states there must be a Secretary, for the purpose of having an additional signature on documents. One can be both the Secretary and Treasurer, or two people can be appointed, one as Secretary one as Treasurer. Carr nominated Doug Krahmer as Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations were made. Nominations were then closed by Krahmer. Votes were taken, and Doug Krahmer was appointed Secretary/Treasurer by a unanimous vote by all. There was no further discussion. Motion passed.

The elected officers will enter their new offices at the February 3, 2010 board meeting.

**RCAP Project-Sustainable Fairview Association**

Olson motioned that the Board accept and approve the RCAP project – sustainable Fairview Association. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carr. There was no further discussion. Motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

### **LAP (Landowner Assistance Program) Payment Requests**

Partial payment of \$300.00 has been requested for the work done in relation to the Gordon House for site preparation and designs. Olson motioned for the Board to accept and approve release of payment in the amount of \$300.00 as per the request. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carr. There was no further discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **OACD 2010 Dues Payment**

Keppinger reminded the Board that OACD had revamped their dues policy in 2009, relating to Districts. As a result the minimum payment per District is now \$1,000.00 and the maximum \$5,000.00. According to the formula OACD presented, our District was required, and chose to pay the maximum amount of \$5,000.00 toward their support. OACD has been struggling now for several years, due to personnel changes, new officers and other issues. Keppinger voiced her concern and hesitation and cautioned the District in paying the full \$5,000.00 all at once, recommending instead that the Board consider remitting only \$1,000.00 and holding out \$4,000.00 until such time that OACD shows a more positive leadership role. Maybe we wait a period of 6 months to see where they are at. Ackland on the other hand felt that OACD's work is important and she would like the District to give them their full support (\$5,000.00) now. Krahmer agreed with Keppinger, noting a disappointment in the work being done by OACD, saying he was in favor of acting on the side of caution.

#### *ACTION:*

*Olson motioned that the Board accept and approve paying OACD \$5,000.00 in full for dues paid them, in support of their work. Miller 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, saying that Keppinger made good points. There was no further discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **OACD Representative**

*It was said that the Board should address the District's OACD representative. Emily Ackland was then nominated. Miller 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Krahmer responded that a 2<sup>nd</sup> was not required. Nomination was closed. All voted yes, to have Ackland represent the Board.*

### **FY 2010 – 2011 Budget Committee Members**

Keppinger informed the Board that three positions within the Budget Committee were up for re-appointment, as of the end of 2009. The positions formerly held by: Val Tancredi, Ken Palke and Paul Stormo. All three of these individuals have voiced a desire to continue serving the District, for another three (3) year term. The positions however, will be advertised as is required by law, in both our newsletter and through our website. The positions are open to others. At our next meeting, we will appoint Budget Officers and prepare the Budget Calendar for the 2010 Budget.

### **2010 Director Elections – November**

Keppinger also reminded the Board that the District will be holding elections in November as four (4) Director Positions - will become available. They include: Zone 2, currently held by Sarah Jane Harper; Zone 3, currently held by Darin Olson; Zone 5, currently held by Joanne Carr; and the At-Large 1 position, currently held by Brian McKinley. ODA oversees the election process. We should have packets received by May/June. Public Notice will be given sometime in mid-July, and candidates will be required to file with the Department of Ag by August 11. Directors must be registered voters, and candidates for Zones 2, 3, and 5 must also reside in the zone they are to represent. There is some generic information available on our website. We cannot hasten the process, as it is under the control of ODA. If anyone knows of someone who is interested in running as a candidate in the November elections, or is desiring to run for re-election, let us know. As Staff and as District we can disseminate information; however, our staff cannot be used for any political activity. Votes will be tallied and the Oath of Office taken. And all four positions go back to a four (4) year term.

#### *DISCUSSION:*

*Miller asked to obtain clarification about the ORS § 568 (Oregon Revised Statute) relating to Zone Directors. One must be a landowner or land manager if they live within zone, but is not required to have 10 acres or more if they have served as an Associated Director? Keppinger responded that the District will look to post the Statute on its website for clarification, adding that the At-Large positions were made available to those who don't otherwise qualify as a Zone Director. Clarification of laws and statutes can be obtained through ODA's SWCD Program Manager or via Heather Rickenbach (503-986-4775).*

### **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS / ASSIGNMENTS**

Olson commented that in the District's next Board meeting, new committee member assignments/re-assignments will be addressed.

**MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:30 PM.**

Next meeting: Wednesday, **February 3, 2010** and beginning at **7:00 PM.**  
Location: Salem USDA's Service Center Conference Room  
650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Ste. #130, Salem, OR 97301-5894

**Minutes submitted by Janice Calkins**