

**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting – 04/04/2018**

Handouts and attachments available on request

Location: Marion SWCD Conference Room
338 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:23 PM

Date Approved: **05/02/2018**

Recorder: Tom Wilson

Chair: Tim Bielenberg

ATTENDANCE:

Directors

Bielenberg, Tim

Hetsel, Ken (*via phone*)

Krahmer, Doug

DeSantis, Bob

Associates

Fields, Mark

Hardy, Lee

Staff

Keppinger, Jane

Wilson, Tom

Guests / Partners

Bachelor, Les (NRCS)

Budeau, David (guest)

Marcey, Terry (guest)

Morgan, Jo (ODA)

BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bielenberg called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Administrative Assistant Wilson noted that the meeting was being recorded.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION / SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / SPECIAL BOARD ACTION: Keppinger reported that Director Hetsel is sick and will vote via telephone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PRESENTATION: Jo Morgan, Water Quality Specialist from ODA gave a presentation and update regarding the Abiqua Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) that took place in 2017. Morgan mentioned there were very few landowners with any agricultural related water quality issues and for those that may have had a concern or issue, they were resolved immediately. Overall the area of Abiqua Creek observed by ODA has not been largely affected by farming practices which would affect water quality. The farmers in that area are doing a great job with their agricultural practices to help protect water quality. (see Handout #1)

AGENDA CHANGES: Keppinger wants to move 12A (OACD Teleconference) up to new business.

At this time (7:32) Hetsel joined the meeting by phone.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT: Bachelor has 8 plans he presented to the board. (See handout #2). He reported he is going to CONNECT at Seaside and that NRCS had a good second round sign-up.

PUBLIC or BOARD COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA: Krahmer asked if the NRCS plans are included in the consent agenda and Bielenberg confirmed they were.

CONSENT AGENDA: Bielenberg presented the Consent Agenda; he asked Board Members to state any comments or conflicts of interest.

A. **MARION SWCD MINUTES:**

1. March 7, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

B. **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. NRCS Conservation Plans (see handout #2)

2. Approve CLEAR Grant (Gilbert House \$1000, Salem Audubon \$930, Miller Elementary \$449, Lamb Elementary \$165, Sprague High \$655)
3. Two Invoices from North Santiam Watershed Council totaling \$10,000 for "Building the Business Case for Investing in Watershed Resiliency in the North Santiam".

ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to approve and adopt the items contained in the Consent Agenda. 2nd by DeSantis; No Discussion; passed unanimously 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Keppinger provided the Board with the March financial report. The QuickBooks reconciliation detail report showed that as of the close of business 3/31/2018 the balance held under the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) to be \$2,547,455.45.

The account for the 125 Flex Plan had a balance of \$770.76 on 3/31/2018. The balance of the District's checking account on 2/28/2018 was \$120,239.27. There were no checking account statements for March, but the District's checking account activity report for March was reviewed and all questions regarding the checks paid out were addressed. Keppinger reported that the one-day plant sale grossed over \$14,000, almost as much as the two-day sale last year, with far less staff time.

ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to approve the financial report as presented. Motion was 2nd by DeSantis, no discussion; Motion passed 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Discuss and review 3-year proposal to perform brush removal on ODOT property across from office: Krahmer explained that the safety of the employees was the most important issue, but it would also be a good project for the district to use for outreach and education. DeSantis was concerned about the total amount the district would have to pay. Krahmer explained that it is only a plan, not a commitment for funds. Keppinger reminded the board it was a primarily a safety issue.

Krahmer moved for the Board to approve brush removal and the 3-year plan on the ODOT property and have staff update the bids for brush removal as presented. No second, motion died.

- B. Review draft North Santiam Watershed Council (NSWC) and Marion SWCD Agreement and Work Plan: Keppinger said that there were 7 applications with 4 interviews set up. The target start date is May 1, 2018. The board will wait until their next meeting to potentially approve the partnership and employment agreement as the North Santiam Watershed Council may have changes. They will meet on Thursday, April 12th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve Recommended Funding of LAP Applications from March 19th (see handout #3).

ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to approve the LAP applications for \$17,014 as presented. 2nd by DeSantis; passed unanimously 4-0.

- B. Accept resignation letter of Associate Director

- C. ***ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to accept the resignation letter of Jeff Bovee. 2nd by DeSantis; passed unanimously 4-0.***

- D. Approve \$5000 to support the I-Map Invasive Program (an on-line, GIS-based data management system used to assist citizen scientists and natural resource professionals working to protect our natural resources from the threat of invasive species).

ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to approve payment of \$5000 to I-map Invasives. 2nd by DeSantis; no discussion; passed unanimously 4-0.

- E. Discuss RFP (request for proposals) to perform future SWCD Financial Audits: Keppinger told the board that it was suggested to look for other auditing firms now, having used the current one for over 10 years. The RFP presented is a draft, and she is looking for feedback on the RFP and approval from the board next month so staff can move forward and advertise for proposals. The process could take up to two to three months to secure a firm and by then it will be time to schedule the 2017-18 audit which is done in the fall.

- F. Approve Purchasing 3 desk top computers to replace older equipment:

ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to approve \$3500 the purchase of 3 desktop computers. 2nd by DeSantis; no discussion; passed unanimously 4-0.

- G. OACD Teleconference: Keppinger explained that there is an OACD meeting at CONNECT. She said they are calling it an annual meeting, but they did not give adequate notice to the districts, enact their resolution process, or allow SWCDs to select their delegates to attend and represent the SWCD at the annual meeting. Therefore, OACD was not following their own bylaws. Discussion followed about writing a letter to OACD to express the district's concerns.

ACTION: Krahmer moved for Keppinger to draft a letter to OACD explaining the Marion SWCD position is that their meeting was not following their own bylaws and this district will not participate. The letter is to be reviewed and signed by Chair Bielenberg. No discussion; passed unanimously 4-0.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AGENCIES, STAFF

- A. Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD): Moved to New Business F.
B. Marion Co. Water Quality Advisory Meeting/Ag Heritage Program Update: None
C. Community Events/Meetings: None

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CHAIR BIELENBERG AT 8:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by Tom Wilson, Administrative Assistant. Attachments and handouts are available upon request.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Next Regular Board Meeting:

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 beginning at 7:00 PM

Location:

Marion SWCD Multnomah Falls Conference Room
338 Hawthorne Ave NE, Salem, OR 97301

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