

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting – 10/03/2018
Handouts and attachments available on request

Location: Marion SWCD Conference Room
338 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97301
Date: Wednesday, October 03, 2018
Time: 7:00 PM to 9:20 PM

Approved; November 15, 2018
Recorder: Tom Wilson
Chair: Tim Bielenberg

ATTENDANCE:

Directors

Bielenberg, Tim
Walker, Scott
Krahmer, Doug
Hsu, Terry

Associates

Hardy, Leland
Budeau, Dave
Fields, Mark

Staff

Keppinger, Jane
Wilson, Tom
Bishop, Brandon

Guests / Partners

McCoun, Rebecca (N. Santiam WC)
Rankin, Anna (Pudding River WC)
Bachelor, Les (NRCS)
Dyk, Robert (guest)
Brown, Cat (USFW)
Hogovorst, Trish (guest)
Adelman, Jim (guest, farmer)
Brenton, Niles (Pacific Birds)
Lulay, Ryan (guest, Lulay Farms)

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION / SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / SPECIAL BOARD ACTION: Keppinger reported that the District bought a new vehicle. Staff love it, and she thanked the board for the appropriation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Rankin (Pudding River Watershed Council) stated they have extra Ponderosa Pines to give out.

AGENDA CHANGES: Chair Bielenberg added the new LAP and SPG applications under *New business E*. Director Hsu would like a follow up discussion regarding the recommendation of the budget committee to get more conservation dollars “on the ground” at a later meeting, with a review of the current NRCS pricing structure, used by the District in their grants, also.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT: Mr. Bachelor (NRCS) told the board there were 41 conservation plans last year with \$2.6 million brought into Marion County. He thanked the board for their support of the NRCS programs. *See Handout #1.*

PUBLIC or BOARD COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA: Keppinger stated that the CLEAR grants were changed; one reduced and one cancelled. Walker asked to change the wording from “claimed” to “distributed a memo” on page 2, *Unfinished Business B*, in the September minutes. Admin Assistant Wilson made the change.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

A. **MARION SWCD MINUTES:**

- A1. August 1, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes
- A2. September 5, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

B. ACTION ITEMS:

- B1. Approve Presented NRCS Conservation Plans
- B2. Approve USGS 4th Qtr. Invoice for \$6,150 for Monitoring 2 Flow Stations
- B3. Approve CLEAR Grant-North Salem H.S. for \$780.00 for Salmon Watch Field Trip Transportation Costs (Only 1 Bus not 2); Grant Community School for \$0.00 for Field Trip Transportation Costs-Funding Request Withdrawn

ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to approve and adopt the items contained in the Consent Agenda with the change suggested by Walker made to Unfinished Business B. 2nd by Walker, passed unanimously 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Keppinger provided the Board with the September financial report. The QuickBooks reconciliation detail report showed that as of the close of business **9/30/2018** the balance held under the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) to be **\$2,071,531.67**

The account for the 125 Flex Plan had a balance of **\$4,664.69 on 8/31/2018.**

The balance of the District's checking account on **8/31/2018** was **\$105,925.50** The District's checking account activity report for September was reviewed and all questions regarding the checks paid out were addressed. Keppinger stated the auditor came in last week and has started the audit. It should be done by November.

ACTION: Krahmer moved for the Board to approve the September financial report as presented. 2nd by Walker, passed 4- 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Follow-up to OACD Fall Strategy Meeting November 14th and 15th in Newport (see handout #2).

Keppinger asked for any director or associate that wants to go to the meeting to let her know so she can register them.

- B. Approve SWCD February 2019 Annual Meeting Dinner Fee and Discuss Possible Types of Entertainment

Keppinger explained that in the past the District has charged \$10. In using Event-bright for registration, there is a fee, and Keppinger wanted to know if the Board wanted to increase the charge and pass on the fee.

ACTION: Hsu moved for the Board to approve the dinner fee of \$10 with fees being absorbed by the district. 2nd by Walker, passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Streak Horned Lark Presentation (see handout #4)

Niles Brinton from Pacific Birds gave a presentation regarding a conservation pilot project for the Streaked Horn Lark. He discussed the possibility of having the Marion SWCD hold a programmatic safe harbor agreement for the county.

- B. Puttiding River Watershed Council-OWEB Grant Project Proposal Presentation or Q&A for SWCD Grant Match Funds (see handout #3).

Rankin explained she is planning on a 2019 project on Weyerhaeuser land, but there could be a large surplus of large wood available for free from BLM in 2020, and she would consider pushing the project back a year to take advantage of it.

- C. Approve NSWC and PRWC OWEB Grant Requests for SWCD OWEB Match Funds

ACTION: Walker moved for the Board to obligate, commit and secure \$25,000 (\$12,500 each) to the N. Santiam and Puttiding River Watershed councils grant requests for OWEB match funds, dependent on OWEB approval. 2nd by Hsu; passed 4-0.

- D. Approve Linn SWCD/Marion SWCD Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) to work in Linn County

ACTION: Walker moved for the Board to approve the Linn SWCD / Marion SWCD IGA to work in Linn County. 2nd by Krahmer; passed 4-0.

- E. Approve LAP Landowner Payments, Project Extension Deadlines, and recent landowner requests

ACTION: Walker moved for the Board to approve the 2 landowner payments (Riffle, Cascade) 2nd by Hsu, Passed 4-0.

ACTION: Walker moved to approve the project extension as presented for Vasquez. 2nd by Krahmer, passed 4-0.

Conservationist Bishop explained Lulay Farms is a new client to the district and would like to do cover cropping this fall, but the timing isn't right for the next grant cycle and needs to be done now. Currently there are beans, mint and pumpkins. The cover crop will be of wheat and vetch. It will cover 170 acres at a \$16,048 total project cost, and Mr. Lulay will plant row crops next year. He was not aware of the program before the last cycle and asked for a consideration. Walker asked if it had been seen by the technical review team, *but it had not*. Associate Director Hardy, a member of the review team, stated it was a standard cover crop plan and he saw no reason not to move forward. *Walker said by not utilizing the review committee, the process was being short circuited, and he would discourage this in the future.*

ACTION: Hsu moved to award Lulay Farms the cover crop landowner assistant program grant as presented, 2nd by Krahmer, passed 4-0.

Mr. Adelman told the board he would like to do cover cropping in his established hazelnut fields. In his fields there is a problem with stratification and alion (an herbicide). His idea is to use a crawler/track seeder machine during a wetter cycle to penetrate the hard-compact soil in an old established orchard. Bishop explained that this is a new technique and qualifies for the Special Project Grant (SPG). The total project

cost is \$5,100, mostly for the equipment rental. Bielenberg voiced his support of the project but thought that the outlay for renting a tractor for a month (minimum rental) when only needed for week was too high. He suggested finding a different method and the district could help with other costs.

ACTION: Bielenberg moved to appropriate up to \$1500 to Adelman's SPG with the stipulation Bishop reports back to the board at later date to discuss the project, 2nd by Hsu, passed 4-0.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AGENCIES, STAFF:

- A. Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD): Keppinger said the monthly phone call discussed OACD meeting and problems in eastern Oregon due to the wildfires.

- B. Ag Heritage Commission Update: Krahmer attended the quarterly Agriculture Board meeting in North Bend to discuss the Commission. The next meeting is the first week of November. He said the Commission is seeking \$10 million from the state legislature for the easement portion of the program.

- C. Community Outreach: Hsu stated that he might be joining the board of the Pringle Watershed Council, dependent on his schedule. Walker said the solar array commission is meeting regularly and is talking about the water rights of the land the arrays are on, among other potential issues.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CHAIR BIELENBERG AT 9:20 PM.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Next Regular Board Meeting:

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 beginning at 6:00 PM

Location:

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

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability and genetic information, age, or membership in an employee organization. Anyone who wishes to attend a meeting but needs special accommodations, please telephone the District office 48 hours in advance at 503-391-9927.