

Marion SWCD Board Meeting
April 6, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Recording available on Request

Location: In person at MSWCD Stayton, OR facility and Zoom Video Conference Call
Date: 04/06/2022
Time: 6:35 PM to 9:00 PM

Vice Chair Koch called the meeting to order @ 6:35 PM.

Present

- **Board:** Rochelle Koch, Dave Budeau, Darin Olson, Terry Hsu
- **Associate:** Mark Fields, Scott Walker
- **Staff:** Brenda Sanchez, Delani Herb
- **Guests/Partners:** Les Bachelor (USDA), Ron Garst and Anna Rankin (Pudding River WC), Stephanie Hazen (guest), and Katherine Rifenburg (ODA)

Public comment

Associate Director Scott Walker suggested himself for the director position vacated by Brenda Sanchez.

April District Snapshot

Information only, see attachment.

Treasurer's Report

Budeau reported district is 2/3 way thru fiscal year, and over 99% of taxes have been collected. He reported the district is right on target. Budget Committee passed the proposed budget, with comments regarding the large cash carry over.

**Action: Olson moved, 2nd Hsu, to accept the treasurers report as presented.
Passed 4-0.**

Filling Vacant Director Position

**Action: Koch moved, 2nd Hsu, to appoint Scott Walker to the at-large vacant
board position. Voted passed 4-0.**

USDA Services Report

Les Bachelor reported they are still looking for an engineer for the Salem office. It has been about 8 months since they lost theirs. Bachelor will have a full staff since 2014 and is excited about the work. The Quality Assurance Review went well.

March Meeting Minutes

Action: Walker moved, 2nd Hsu, to accept all March minutes for dates [2](#), [9](#), [16](#), [18](#), and [24](#) as amended to include Brenda Sanchez in attendance of the March 24 meeting as member of public. Passed 5-0.

Committee Reports

Program Committee

Sanchez presented the March meeting minutes (see attachment)

[OWEB Monitoring Proposal](#) – PRWC Rankin: Ms. Rankin reported that bio monitoring is simple and important. It will target spawning gravel and can be used to prioritize conservation for salmonids. Data will be uploaded for ease of use. Terry Hsu asked about the protocol. Anna said it was a physical inventory of the characteristics of the bank as well as an inventory of species. Olson asked if it could be brought back next month and possibly tied to other funds the district provides and Rankin stated they were two separate buckets of money, and she needs the commitment from partners now. \$16,647 is the total ask for cash and in-kind supports. Total cost of project is \$76,000. Olson suggested finishing the discussion later in the agenda when the board discusses other watershed council funding (9B).

Action: Hsu moved 2nd Koch, to provide \$15,000 in cash for the project, with staff time to be discussed later. Passed 5-0.

[Pesticide Stewardship Partnership](#) Update: Katherine Rifenburg from ODA explained they are offering funds to the district to assist in water quality monitoring. Using the data to increase outreach. Olson asked about the site selection, and Katherine said it was a mixed bag of different types of streams. ODA needs an answer by July. Ms. Herb pointed out the staff would like this data to help in their outreach and education efforts. Walker would like to see a program description and not as much as legal agreement to understand the entirety of the program. Sanchez will bring it back to the board in terms of the workload and budget analysis next month.

[The Pause](#)

Olson explained the two issues he sees are financials of sustaining current programming and staffing levels. Koch would like to see a strategic plan created and Olson replied they will have a series of long meetings that will be frustrating, but positive in the end. Budeau wants the board to reassess all the programs of the district. Walker supports the idea. Hsu wanted to brainstorm ideas for evaluation of the programs. Sanchez is putting together a plan for an organizational structure that will set the district up for success. She has scheduled a series of meetings to discuss the needs and will revisit the 5-year plan to check in on progress and if it needs to be shifted. She has a 3-month plan to look at staffing, programs, and skills. Walker wants to get the board involved early in

the process and Sanchez replied that was the plan. Hsu suggested it not be a hard pause, but that some projects can move forward as staff time allows, at Sanchez' discretion. Koch wanted the "LAP Pause" relabeled as the "SWCD Pause". Sanchez will schedule the meetings.

Administrative Committee

Hsu said the two topics were discussed: the new financial officer position and website update. Discussion of Financial Officer position led to proposal of interim solution of Susan Ortiz being temporarily paid more for increased duties.

Website update discussion led to recommending approval of Abide quote for web design. Walker asked about the yearly maintenance cost.

Action: Koch moved, 2nd Olson, to approve the website contract as presented. Walker asked if this was within the sole sourcing limits. Passed 5-0.

Building Committee

Action: Olson moved, 2nd Koch, to approved not more than \$10,000 for the Building Committee for outside ADA compliance, including handrail. Passed 5-0.

Koch said there was still some work to do on ADA for inside bathrooms.

Education Committee

Discussed CLEAR grant request from Turner Elementary for Reach the Beach field trip for 5th graders. Students will visit tidepools at Yaquina Bay Lighthouse and attend program at Hatfield Marine Science Center. Committee recommends Board approve full funding in the amount of \$1670 for this CLEAR grant.

Action: Olson moved, 2nd Koch, to approve the CLEAR grant for Turner Elementary as presented. Passed 5-0.

Payments and Contracts

Nationwide Insurance Renewal: Koch tasked Sanchez with reviewing the contract, contacting Nationwide to make sure coverage is adequate, and update the Signers. This will be moved until next month's board meeting.

Presentation of paid LAP. Olson and Budeau would like to have more information presented to the board, not just the snapshot. Olson said it is a work in progress, but they want some more details, and Sanchez will follow up and bring it to the next board meeting.

Grants and Extensions

Action: Walker moved, 2nd Koch, to name Brenda Sanchez as the registered agent for Marion SWCD. Passed 5-0.

Action: Olson moved, 2nd Budeau, to approve the LAP contract extension requests as presented. Passed 5-0.

Letter of Support Rural Tax Exemption Letter Request (see attachment)

Discussion regarding date and purpose of letter. Sanchez will investigate, no action.

Watershed Council Support

Walker repeated what was in the letter (see attachment). He suggested the district provide unrestricted support for North Santiam and Pudding River Watersheds. Walker explained the reporting obligations were restrictive and he proposed \$10,000 a year to each major watershed council over 4 years. To be implemented next FY.

Olson said we was in favor of the idea, but wanted it fleshed out more, defining which watersheds would be eligible so as to not discriminate. Sanchez will bring topic to Program Committee. Walker was concerned with overburdensome reporting.

Mr. Garst from the Pudding River Watershed Council explained the grant they received from Clackamas SWCD and the expectations were not in reporting, but in proving community outreach and more recognition of the District and its programs.

Koch is very excited about the opportunity and would like to see it incorporated in the long-term strategic planning.

Election of Board Officers

Action: Hsu moved, 2nd Koch, to elect Darin Olson Chair and Koch to remain vice chair. Passed 5-0.

Olson mentioned he was out of town for the budget hearing and next board meeting on May 4.

Meeting Adjournment – Vice-Chair Koch at 8:21 PM