



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors August 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes
6:31 PM to 8:38 PM
Facilitator: Chair Olson
Recorded by: Brenda Sanchez

Board Meeting 6:31 PM – 8:12 PM

Attendance

Meeting offered in-person at our location in Stayton, OR, by video conference, and by telephone.

Directors	Associates	Staff	Guests
Dave Budeau	Mark Fields	Brenda Sanchez	Angela Plowhead
Terry Hsu			Les Bachelor
Darin Olson			Eric Nussbaum
Scott Walker			Catherine Alexander

Note: All documents and materials displayed or referenced are retained in the Board of Directors Meeting file at the District.

A. Olson Call to Order: 6:33 PM

B. Agenda Additions or Changes:

C. Announcements:

Olson presented a check to Catherine Alexander of Straub Outdoors from the District for conservation education. Alexander shared Straub's gratefulness for the funding. Alexander is on the September Board meeting agenda to share highlights of Straub Outdoor educational work in conservation.

1. Public Comment

2. District Snapshot

District Snapshot on file.

3. Treasurers Report Ending June 30, 2022

Budeau began reporting on the Treasurer's Report ending June 30, 2022, he noted that this is the end of the fiscal year. We ended up right on the money.

However, our grant revenue was down from ODA and other grants. Resources page of the report shows overall we ended up with around 93 percent of expected revenues. Because of short staff we saved a considerable amount of what was budgeted. We are still in pretty good shape; salary was a concern, but we only came in at around 70 percent of the fiscal year due to being short staffed.

Sanchez explained that we did not draw on ODA funds because we have put off SIA and FAAP work because ODA has been short staffed. We just did a draw from grant programs.

Walker asks, any feelings for how much delinquent tax is out there? Budeau explains that although we were in a pandemic, we collected more taxes this year than we expected. Walker follows up with, is there any observations on based on spending for the upcoming year? Budeau responds that he does not believe that there will be any alarmin concerns because this fiscal year we did so well. We must look down the road and see what we budgeted versus what we bring in. Olson adds that the new Financial Administrator can complete a financial analysis and look at our spending for upcoming years to see where we will be.

Action: Walker motioned for the Board to **approve the Financial/Treasurers Report ending June 30, 2022.** 2nd by Budeau. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-4 (Walker, Olson, Hsu, and Budeau), Opposed-0).

4. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Services

Bachelor states that he is finishing up a few contracts EQIP and CIC (4) applications. Ran a pilot in 2021 with the CIC. There was not enough funding to cover all the applications. NRCS did not get the full amount of funding. Looking to others to help make the difference up. NRCS still does not have an engineer. Bachelor requests some assistance in promoting their programs as they begin to outreach. Forestry program has a couple of contracts. Walker asks how they market their programs, Bachelor responds they advertise statewide, which helps but locally we attend workshops and conferences to promote.

5. Review of July 13, 2022, Work Session, and Board Meeting Minutes

Olson begins by stating that the work session was positive, and the Board should engage more often in work sessions. Budeau noted that he submitted edits to Sanchez, and they were incorporated. Walker asks to clarify his thoughts on the Cover Crop Program more accurately. Sanchez corrected the minutes.

Action: Walker motioned for the Board to **approve the July 13, 2022, Work Session and Board Meeting Minutes as modified.** 2nd by Budeau. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-4 votes - Walker, Olson, Hsu, and Budeau, Opposed-0 votes).

6. Ethics for Public Officials

Sanchez explains that this is a scheduled board training to keep Directors apprised of Board roles and responsibilities. Eric Nussbaum of the Oregon Department of Agriculture provided the training and reviewed the handout “Ethics for Public Officials” that is on file with District. Nussbaum says there is the manual “Ethics for Public Officials” updated 4/30/21. Sanchez put a copy in Board file.

After the presentation there were a few questions to clarify Nussbaum’s presentation.

7. Payments and Contracts

a) Completed – Closed Projects

Staff created a slideshow of completed projects. Presentation on file. Directors began a debate after reviewing the completed grants regarding sub-surface drip irrigation and whether this is a practice the District should fund.

8. CONNECT

Sanchez explains that several staff would like to attend CONNECT in person. Cost could be as much as \$9,000 (registration, hotel, and per diem for 10 people) and is seeking Board approval for the cost to attend CONNECT. Sanchez explains there is money in the training budget and Directors pointed out that staff is also new and would benefit. Directors asked about the details of the CONNECT agenda and discussed the request. Directors agreed to go this year but maybe next year less people would be able to attend.

Action: Budeau moves to **authorize up to ten people to attend CONNECT conference in Seaside.** 2nd by Olson. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-4 votes - Walker, Olson, Hsu, and Budeau, Opposed-0 votes).

9. Approve Employees for Regular Status after 6 Month Introductory Period

Sanchez explains that Delani Herb, Becky Pineda, and Heath Keirstead all completed their introductory six-month period and Sanchez would like the Board to approve them all as full-time regular employees. Sanchez shared that they have all been exemplary employees, working to learn their new jobs and taking initiative to train and learn; and assist each other as they started here at the District. Directors agreed that the three have been good to work with and their attitude has been pleasant and positive.

Action: Walker moves to **approve Pineda, Keirstead, and Herb as regular full-time employees.** 2nd by Hsu. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-4 votes - Walker, Olson, Hsu, and Budeau, Opposed-0 votes).

10. Marion County Letter of Support for OWEB Grant

Sanchez explained that a letter of support request came in from Marion County for a grant proposal to support “Post-Fire Recovery” in their second phase of work to be completed in the burn area. This letter is for a new grant they are applying for to help fund the project. No technical assistance or match funds were requested.

Action: Walker moves to **authorize District Manager to sign a letter of support for the Marion County Grant Application to OWEB.** 2nd by Olson. No further discussion, although Budeau pointed out in the County’s slide show regarding habitat they have a photo of Bard owls, which are invasive. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-4 votes - Walker, Olson, Hsu, and Budeau, Opposed-0 votes).

Olson asked Sanchez when the next Building Committee would be scheduled. Sanchez replied that there will be one in September. Olson states that this will most likely be the last one. Walker wants to finish the ADA entrance and parking and potentially the ADA bathrooms.

Adjourn: Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM



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