



*Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes-
October 23, 2014
(Approved January 22, 2015)

The October regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Mark Villers.

Board members present:, Mark Villers, Charlie Waterman, Dan Pierce, Ernie Newton.

Absent board members: Empty zone 5, Beau Allen, Empty zone 1

Staff: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas

Guests present: Amy Wilson (NRCS), Cassie Bouska (OSU Ext), Beth Pietrzak (ODA), John Fandel (CVA)

7:00PM -7:03 PM **Introductions:** A sign-in sheet was passed around.

7:04PM **Approval of September Minutes: Charlie moved to approve the September 2014 Minutes. Dan seconded the minutes. All were in favor. Approved.**

Agency Reports:

7:04 PM John Fandel, **Treasury Report** – John had nothing new to add, other than the usual warning that we are still drastically underspent in the SOW funds category and are in danger of sending back even more funds than at the end of the previous biennium.

7:05 PM **Ernie motioned to approve the treasury report. Dan seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion approved.**

7:05 PM Beth Pietrzak, **ODA Report** – Beth said that she had just attended the Coquille TMDL meeting the day before, the second in a series of TMDL meetings led by Pam Blake. All of the designated management facilities were encouraged to attend, as well as local stakeholders. The focus of yesterday's TMDL meeting was mostly bacteria and sediment management strategies in the Coquille basin covered by the local advisory committee plan. There are multiple agencies involved working together on this and Beth is involved in the Ag water quality part of the plan. The Coos-Coquille AgWQMP and rules are intended to address those TMDL's.

Charlie asked how agriculture is being represented at these meetings and how the process for making comments works. He requested information on who is on the committee. Beth asked Amy Wilson if she knew more about how the process for commentary works. Amy said that Pam Blake will be sending out a list and people will be able to add their comments. Amy also added that point sources such as water treatment plants have been undergoing some upgrades but still need more improved management. More needs to be done to encourage people to get involved. Values are still unacceptable. When focus shifts to non-point sources of water contamination such as agriculture, one possible role for the SWCD may be to help show that those bacteria and sediment levels are not all coming from livestock. Charlie stated the public needs a better understanding and suggested analysis of cow-pies in fields contributing to poor water quality. Beth stated that current means of testing are unable to separate DNA percentages of fecal matter from elk, birds, wildlife, etc. vs. percentage of livestock fecal matter. Amy suggested the district could work more with people to educate them more about the Ag industry.

7:19 PM Beth had met with Caley about our future projects coming up. Mark asked if we are able to shift our focus area to a different area since we have had no successful projects in that area. Amy responded that we are able to change the focus area if we want to. Mark suggested switching right away and Amy recommended

waiting until July. Caley explained what she has been doing to contact people and her results thus far. Charlie suggested to develop future focus area in worst quality testing area for possible better results.

7:24 PM Beth concluded her report.

7:24 PM Amy Wilson, **NRCS Report** – Amy passed out an NRCS fact sheet. She stated that specific terminology comes directly from the farm bill. She discussed the local working group and the yearly meeting in January. After the meeting last January, people complained they didn't get enough time to speak so there will be another meeting this fall on October 30th for people to talk more about their local projects. She announced there will be less funding available this year. A local work group meeting being held for strategic planning to come up with new strategies. The sudden oak death focus and general forest health is approved but currently not funded. Mark explained a job in an area with SOD and how the crew washed everything so they didn't bring SOD to Coos County. Amy needs help and stated SWCD can take an active role in identifying needs and work on it as a strategy.

7:36 PM Caley reminded Amy of NRCS Cooperative Agreement. Mark clarified that we just agree to go by NRCS's privacy rules. The privacy to the property owners must be respected. The only downside is we have to be diligent and not respecting the rules would harm our relationship with NRCS. Charlie asked if any training is involved or if we would be getting on federal computers. Amy said there would be no access to federal computers.

7:44 PM **Charlie moved to sign the Acknowledgment of Section 1619 of the 2008 Farm Bill Compliance printed August 2009. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor. Approved.**

7:46 PM Amy concluded her report.

7:48 PM Cassie Bouska **OSU Extension Report** – Cassie discussed cranberries organized for February and international meeting in August. She also discussed core credits class and she wants to do a management educational in the spring. Amy is unable to do surveys and is looking to Cassie to help to do them. Mark discussed cranberry prices and labor intensity.

7:55 PM Cassie concluded her report.

7:55 PM Ernie had nothing new to report. Cassie added that the presentation of the South Fork Action Plan will be on November 24th.

7:59 PM Ernie concluded his report.

8:00 PM Caley Sowers **Coos SWCD Staff Report** – Second round of PSP sampling is completed. Two mile site was sampled without complication. She was unable to reach the owner for the Myrtle Creek site and sampled Cunningham Creek as the alternate site; however, she ended up sampling out of the wrong creek as there is a sizeable unnamed drainage crossing the path just before Cunningham Creek at Sturdivant Park. The drainage did not show up on aerial maps and staff was unsure as to whether it was actually Cunningham or not. Staff collected samples anyway, only to find out after that it was indeed the wrong creek. DEQ was notified to disregard those samples. The new sampling site will be Cunningham Creek at Coquille HS Softball Field.

8:02 PM Initial site visit was done at Kentuck Creek in North Bend. Caley is contacting multiple other agencies for a return visit to landowner to try to offer him the best possible assistance. Amy stated that the landowner is outside of the area for NRCS funding for K-line, but if there were more neighboring landowners interested they could start building a new strategy for 2016.

8:08 PM another recent site visit was conducted on Hwy 42S. Staff is currently working with that landowner to explore project options. Another small project has come up at Empire Lakes which was referred by Mark and Chris Claire. There are no fish in the creek and the project would be purely about water quality. Mark

discussed the sheep and llamas that currently have access to the creek. He suggested planning to fence animals out of creek that drains into the lake. A suggestion of a very small grant for fencing and riparian planting on both sides of the creek was made. Cassie asked about before and after testing of water and Mark said usually there was no testing done just before and after photos. Beth suggested contacting Coos Watershed for possible testing of E.coli. There is a lab in Coos Bay to perform the tests.

8:17 PM Hwy 42S has a lot of potential. Mark suggested planting trees. Off channel watering was discussed. Amy gets credit for technical assistance if up to NRCS standards. Beth suggested Caley contact Drew Harper for further assistance.

8:23 PM Caley discussed the purchase of a laptop using the district operations and SWCD general budget. Cassie suggested a docking station. Caley stated \$1000 cap on the purchase of getting a laptop would allow her to get one as soon as possible.

8:27 PM Charlie moved to approve the spending of up to \$1000 out of the District Operations budget for office equipment to allow Caley to work from home during maternity leave. Dan seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

8:32 PM Caley will have the cost of a cell phone for the next board meeting.

8:33 PM Caley discussed the vegetation workshop held on September 30th in cooperation with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

8:37 PM Annual meeting will be December 4th at the Myrtle Point Extension. It will be an outreach type of event. Approved consensus there will be no cooperators of the year award given.

8:41 PM NOWC-OACD Conference on November 12th through 14th was discussed. Caley and Mark will both be attending. Board members are paid for out of district operations budget and Caley will be paid for out of SOW staff training budget.

8:49 PM Charlie moved to send Caley and Mark to the conference with \$1000 each approved for expense of conference, lodging, mileage, etc. Dan second. All in favor. Approved.

8:50 PM Charlie asked about the price of Norton Internet Security. Caley informed him it is \$79 for a new year's subscription which would cover up to 5 devices. Mark suggested using some of the \$1000 already approved for office equipment to purchase Norton.

8:52 PM District truck is not starting as of yesterday (October 22, 2014). Staff suspects there is a problem with the battery. Ernie suggested contacting Ralph at Auto Clinic to check it out.

8:56 PM Move next board meeting to November 20th due to Thanksgiving being the fourth Thursday of the month. Charlie asked about annual meeting. Caley stated it needs to be put in newspaper.

8:57 PM Dan moved that a resolution be passed to hold the annual meeting on December 4, 2014 from 7PM to 10PM at the Myrtle Point OSU Extension Building. Charlie seconded the resolution. All in favor. Resolution approved.

8:58 PM Caley asked if anyone had any ideas or had a preference for guest speakers. Mark suggested Woody. He cost \$150 the previous year.

9:00 PM Caley will contact Woody, Frank Burriss, Shelby Filley and Oregon Cattlemen's Association in regards to speakers. Board gave Caley general approval to contact and line up guest speakers.

9:02 PM Minutes from previous months needed signatures.

9:03 PM **Dan motioned for approval of Chapter 6 in the Employee Handbook. Charlie second. All in favor. Approved.**

9:04 PM **Meeting adjourned**

Signature of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date