



*Coos Soil & Water Conservation District  
371 North Adams  
Coquille, OR, 97423 Phone 541-396-6879*

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District  
February Board Meeting Minutes-  
February 25, 2016  
(March 24, 2016)

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

Absent board members: N/A

Staff: Caley Sowers

Guests present: Christopher Claire (ODFW), Barbara Grant (Curry SWCD), Chuck Steffensmeier (rancher), John Sweet (Coos County), Eric Moeggenberg (NRCS)

February meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Mark Villers.

-Meeting opened with introductions/sign in. Mark announced John Fandel would not be attending tonight due to a personal emergency.

-Caley/Mark presented treasurer's report.

-November and December 2015 minutes discussed

**7:08PM- Charlie moved to approve November and December 2015 minutes. Ernie seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.**

**7:09PM- Charlie moved to approve Treasurer Report. Dan second. All in favor.**

7:10PM- Christopher Claire – ODFW report: New assistant wildlife biologist working for Stewart Love. John McLoughlin started Monday, likely be interest to anyone looking for assistance with elk damage. Currently conducting surveys of elk herds, mostly looking at cow to elk ratio. Looking at alternative methods to keep elk out of important areas. On the fish side, Tom Rummereich is on extended leave, two positions cut last year. Gary Vonderhoe and Chris Claire are under extremely heavy workload currently. Tom R may retire, hasn't decided. Chris explained that Tom is largely responsible for the hatchery program in our area which has brought populations back from very low levels in the 80's.

-Also added working with Caley to develop small grant projects piece by piece, visited Tom Brown – other projects.

-Extremely bogged down with Jordan Cove review workload – reviewing fish passage/mitigation - 1100 pages.

-Mark asked if there was a deadline

-Chris said not exactly, but ODFW has been asked by the governor to check in with Salem every 60 days. Although ODFW is neutral on the project (neither for nor against) the governor– doesn't want the state to be an inhibiting factor to Jordan Cove.

7:24PM- Chris concludes report.

7:25PM-Eric M – new D.C. for Coos & Curry counties started at new position in December. Eric presented the recent local NRCS workgroup meeting, minutes and USDA report (see printed report).

-Mark asked about SONC and how far it goes. Chris said it goes from Elk River South (possibly Sixes).

- Added that the Oregon Coos-Curry area was declared a disaster from the December heavy rains – if you know anyone who wants to report flood damage from December, refer them to NRCS.
- Chris explained what SONC stands for and the difference between Southern and Northern Coho populations.

7:34PM-Barbara Grant gave the CREP report– see printed report. Talked about CREP in other parts of the state.

- Project updates.

7:45PM-Ernie Newton – Coquille Watershed Report – Ernie asked if Caley or Chris had anything to add on Dawn’s report. Caley said she would cover topics in her report. Chris talked briefly about the Baker Creek project he’s been working on with Dawn. They had a meeting at BLM today – the project has been under development since 2009, and will cost around \$900,000.

**Resource Roundup-Adela moved to authorize Caley to attend Resource Roundup for \$25. Charlie second. All in favor.**

Discussed attending Ocean’s CONNECT training conference this year on a scholarship – applications for scholarships are due March 4<sup>th</sup>. Board advised to apply for the scholarship first before using SOW staff training funds.

Continue discussion on NRCS workgroup/tide gates

- Talk about RCPP, potential funding sources.
- Chris explained that some tide gates are never going to rank high enough. Would be nice to leverage some funding for increased funding to do outreach to the community.
- Agriculture funding sources not stepping up to the plate to fund tide gate restoration projects. Fish habitat sources would be nice if there were increased options for landowners.
- Charlie wanted to make a comment about NEPA document comments on Winter Lake and how federal government organizations are worse on agriculture than state.

**9:05PM-Charlie moved to appoint Chuck Steffensmeier. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.**

9:06PM-Charlie wanted to make a comment – New business on Board at Forestry Final Riparian Rules Package – 60’ no cut rule.

9:18PM- Mark to end on a positive note –restoration project on his property –a skeptical neighbor was pleased with results of recent small stream re-meander – noted that as a result of the project, the stream cleared up a lot faster after winter high flows this year.

9:30 PM February Meeting adjourned.

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Signature of the Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submitted by:

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Caley Sowers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date