



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

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes-
April 23, 2015
(Approved May 28, 2015)

Regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Mark Villers.

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

Absent board members: Empty zone 5

Staff: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas (not present)

Guests present: John Fandel, Christopher Claire (ODFW)

7:05PM: Mark called meeting to order

7:05PM: Discussed Amy Wilson leaving NRCS and accepting a new position near Mt. St. Helens. Chris Claire (ODFW) has offered to start coming to our board meetings in lieu of Jeff Jackson, who has taken a new position as Wildlife Biologist.

7:13PM: **Charlie moved to approve the March meeting minutes. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.**

7:13PM: **Charlie moved to approve the Treasury Report. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.**

Agency Reports:

7:15PM: Chris Claire (ODFW)

- Discussed ArcGIS training with Coos SWCD staff
- Johnson Creek Stream Assessment/Survey report provides valuable fish data on culverts, as well as land usage/condition
- Significant findings of assessment include the discovery that Coho Salmon could in fact use Johnson Creek now with altered management.
- Charlie wanted to know about the proposed dam impacting water levels for cranberry farmers
- Chris explained Stolz Dam and the proposed dam are separate issues. The proposed dam could cut off water to Stolz's.
- Report on general F&W – noting lots of bears – collecting teeth to get average age of population
- Major shift in blue grouse population
- Talked about Jordan Cove – discussion of whether or not the project is going in for sure or not, and how many jobs and other benefits the project would provide to Coos County.

7:45PM: Chris concluded his report.

7:48PM: Ernie's Report. Ernie opted not to present his report as a written version was provided (see attached report). Chris talked about his work with Dawn and the Coquille Watershed Association on their tide gate project on Cochran's property on North Bank rd. He also mentioned the upcoming meeting taking place on April 30th on North Bank Rd. to discuss the other failing tide gates in that area, Seven-mile and Offfield Creeks, and specifically the failed culvert at Seven-mile because it is a public safety issue. Chris answered the

directors' questions about the new tide gate designs, past efforts to work with landowners in that area, and the availability of funds for those types of projects.

8:15PM: Caley's Staff Report. Caley talked about the forms due for the next biennium's SWCD capacity and SOW funding, including the New Focus Area Action Plan which is due by April 30th. She went over some of the benefits of changing our focus area to the Lower North Fork of the Coquille, and brought up the question of whether or not we should save the Wood Creek Project and submit it as a large grant for the October deadline. Mark explained that the landowner was wanting to get the project completed by this fall and so the large grant timeline would not work for him. Caley also talked about our current projects and the 2 year status reports that have been completed. Currently we are down to only 2 outstanding reports, one of which is mostly complete but has not been submitted. She mentioned another small grant for a heavy use area improvement that Pat Jones will be sending our way, but didn't have a lot of information about the project as of yet. She noted that between Wood Creek, and the Brickey Irrigation Efficiency project, and this new small grant, we will likely be submitting applications for a total of \$30,000 at the next small grant team meeting on May 15th. Since there are currently \$38,000 left in the small grant funding pool, this plus the CWA's two projects, should result in all of the funds being spent down.

8:30PM: Conclude Staff Report

8:33PM: Approval of changes to Employee Handbook Chapter 1 (updates to employee and volunteer policy).

8:35PM: **Adela motioned to approve revised employee handbook. Dan second. All in favor/ Motion Passed.**

8:38PM: Discussion of Long Range Business Plan. Caley asked whether the directors had read through the long range business plan and whether they had any comments or changes. None of the directors had done so yet, so Caley went over her own suggested edits and changes to the plan. There was a discussion of adding Modena's position description to the Long Range Plan, and whether or not we needed to do this since she is hired as a temp through Cardinal. It was eventually decided that approval of the plan could be postponed until next meeting since it is not actually due until June. Caley would email the board members the new Long Range Business Plan with all of her changes to it highlighted in yellow.

8:50PM: **Charlie moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement subject to ODA final approval. Ernie second the motion. All in favor. Motion Approved.**

9:00PM: Discussion of staff training opportunity. Caley explained that there is a training offered at the end of June in Prineville, it is free, and the only cost to the District would be travel and mileage. Since Caley was unable to attend Connect due to the way the training is organized, this would be a good substitute and Caley could bring a family member with her to babysit while she attends the training. The board discussed the estimated cost of attending the training, mileage, and per diem rates for food and lodging.

9:05PM: **Ernie moved to approve attending the Grazing Management for Riparian Wetland Areas training. Charlie seconded the motion.**

- Mark said register – next meeting we'll talk in more detail about costs and per diem rates.

9:10PM: **Adela moved to approve Mark's signature of the ODA New Racial Impact Statement – checking box three. Dan seconded. All in favor. Motion Passed.**

9:15PM: Meeting adjourned

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date