



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

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District  
Regular Meeting Minutes-  
May 26, 2016  
(Approved July 28, 2016)

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

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

Absent board members:

Staff: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas

Guests present: Eric Moeggenberg (NRCS), Christopher Claire (ODFW), Eric Nusbaum (ODA)

7:05PM Mark called meeting to order

7:05-7:10PM Mark leads the swearing in of new Zone 5 Director, Chuck Steffensmeier. Chuck reads the Oath of Office and signs two copies. The board discusses upcoming director elections, rules, and procedure. Caley says that she will include election packets within the next month's board packets.

7:10PM-7:12PM **Charlie motioned to approve the April minutes. Adela seconded the motion. All in favor (no opposed), motion passed.**

7:12PM-7:30PM Caley gave the monthly Treasurer's report on behalf of John Fandel, who could not attend the meeting. She reviewed the District's finances, and passed around excel sheet print-outs of the annual budget with projected expenditures and incomes for the coming fiscal year. This served as a segue into her proposal that the District go ahead and rent the larger office space next door to the current District office on 371 N. Adams St. (formerly the CASA building) and pay one year's rent in advance at the start of the new fiscal year.

7:28PM **Dan motioned that the Coos SWCD rent the larger office and pay for one year's rent in advance. Ernie seconded the motion. All voted in favor/no opposed; motion passed. Ernie moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor (no opposed); motion passed.**

7:30PM Caley gave her monthly staff report on the District's activities, including:

- Survey training with NRCS
- Upcoming Soil Health Workshop
- Upcoming Biennial Review/LAC Meeting
- Progress of current, ongoing, and potential projects including the Salmonid workshop series with NWETC, the WSARE grant for the sustainable grazing in wetlands training, fencing and planting on Offield Creek and the Sause Bros. Property in Coos Bay, ODA compliance visits, Dutch John Pond, Wood Creek, etc. (see May 2016 Staff Report)

Caley expressed concerns about the lack of progress on the Wood Creek project since last September. She also proposed that, based on the state of the District's finances and the likelihood of an increased number of fencing and planting type restoration projects over the next two years, the District would benefit from doing more in-house work on projects and ought to purchase a small lightweight planting auger for use in tree planting projects. She explained that a STIHL Planting Auger would cost about \$500, plus the cost of drill bits in various sizes, but would be a good investment.

Charlie, Mark, and Ernie expressed concerns regarding increases in workers comp insurance, whether the equipment would be too heavy or dangerous for Caley to operate, risks of allowing non-SWCD staff to operate or borrow the equipment, and what kind of fuel the equipment would require. Caley was not able to print the STIHL ad due to low ink levels in the office printer, but said she would look into the workers comp rates and see about finding an auger that she could use to

**7:56PM Charlie moved that the District trade its leveling rod straight across for the new, compatible one that Mark had purchased with his discount. Mark and Adela declared conflict of interest and recused themselves from voting; all others in favor (no opposed), the motion passed.**

**7:59PM Charlie moved to approve looking into purchasing a planting auger, have Caley inquire about workers comp estimates, rental rates, etc. Dan seconded the motion; all in favor, no opposed; motion passed.**

8:06PM Staff report concludes

8:07PM Eric Nusbaum (ODA):

- General overview of public contracting laws and rules, and why it's important to have a policy in place.
- Liability and risk
- Discussion of Curry SWCD public contracting policy and sample policy from SDAO.

8:24PM Eric's report concludes

8:32PM Eric Moeggenburg (NRCS):

- Discussion of the Myrtle Lane Dairy Heavy Use Area Improvement Project changes and timeline adjustments
- (See attached report)

8:37PM Barbara Grant (CREP/Curry SWCD): see attached report

8:45PM Ernie Newton (CWA): see attached report

9:00PM Christopher Claire (ODFW)

- Lots of bear this year/ spring bear season
- Increasing turkey population
- Deer hair loss still a problem; black tail deer continue to struggle. The disease originally came from Washington State via Europe.
- Cormorants have set up nest in ODFW parking lot
- Work on Jordan Cove permit continues, and also Winter Lake Project

9:24PM Charlie commented on a recent issue involving the first time a permit has been required to remove a beaver dam in tidally influenced waterways. High water caused by the dam has been killing off nearby willow trees; landowners would like to see it removed to restore drainage. Drainage issues are impacting nearby agricultural and residential areas. However; ODFW and USACE's stance is that draining the area completely will reduce fish production potential, as beaver dams tend to create ideal fish habitat. The dam removal is being classified as a removal-fill activity which will require a permit, making the process to restore drainage slower, more complicated, and potentially costly for landowners.

9:32PM Christopher concluded

9:35PM Meeting adjourned

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Signature of the Chairman

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Date

Submitted by:

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Caley Sowers

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Date