



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

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2021  
(Approved May 27, 2021)

Regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM

Board members present at office: Mark Villers, Adela Villers, Ernie Newton

Board members present on Zoom: Michael Clary

Absent board members: Charlie Waterman, Cindy Gant

Staff present in office: Caley Sowers

Staff present on Zoom:

Guests present in office: Chris Claire (ODFW)

Guests present on Zoom: Katie Woodruff (NRCS), Barbara Grant (Curry SWCD), Melaney Dunne (CoqWA)

7:20PM - Meeting called to order

- Mark called roll and asked for discussion of April 13, 2021 (March meeting) minutes. **Adela motioned to approve April 13, 2021 minutes; Mark seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** (Ernie reminded the board that he was absent from the April 13, 2021 meeting).
- Treasurer Report Review. Michael requested clarification for Coos County Planning Department fees. **Adela motioned to approve March Treasurer Report; Ernie seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

7:31PM - Old Business

- Online Banking.
  - Mark relayed that only 2 people are allowed to use the full online banking features without incurring additional fees. Caley suggested she could forward any necessary detail to Fandel/Accountant.
- Long-Range Business Plan:
  - Michael relayed that revisions are largely non-substantive, except for Secretary and other officer role definitions suggested in the Oregon SWCD Guidebook. Currently on schedule to present the draft update at the May board meeting. **ACTION: Michael will send first round revisions to Cindy for review by April 25, 2021. Mark should see the draft by April 30, 2020.**

7:45 - New Business

- Annual Meeting:
  - COVID restrictions and wind are unknown variables that limit choosing a location at this time. Sturdivant Park, Laverne County Park, and Bullards Beach

were mentioned as possible outdoor locations, Sturdivant is close to the office and stores, Bullards may be less windy.

- Job Description Update & Employee Benefits/Hiring Watershed Tech.
  - The Office Manager is requesting medical insurance/stipend and an experienced Watershed Technical Specialist/Water Quality Program Manager needs to be hired to replace Mariel. A comprehensive review of pay equities for District Staff is timely and warranted.
  - Barbara relayed that Pay scales in the conservation field are difficult to compare, and that Curry SWCD has recently performed salary review, . Caley relayed that (SWCD/OACD) compensation data was presented at CONNECT.
  - Coos SWCD has had 3+ WTS staff in the past 2 years, the district may need to offer a medical stipend to remain competitive.
  - **ACTION: Mark and Adela will obtain compensation data from Curry SWCD, CONNECT/Caley and provide recommendations at the May meeting.**
- Bear Creek grant: The OWEB grant application will not be submitted by the April 26, 2021 deadline. Caley has communicated to the landowner that the district will start work on a Conservation Plan and submit the grant application this fall.

#### 8:23 - Coos SWCD Staff Reports

- Current/Active and Potential Developing Projects: No additional staff reports
- Safety Meeting: Office work presents potential safety hazards, including repetitive motion injuries and slips, trips, falls

#### 8:25 - Partner Agency Reports

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):
  - Katie is working on CIS programming, EQIP contracts(N=6), and attending various meetings. Office presence is 50% (alternating with Barbara), with Cheyenne at 100%.
  - No Healthy Forest applications are being processed.
  - Content for NRCS newsletters was solicited.
  - A couple of people are interested in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), site visits are scheduled. CSP is similar to EQIP but is for enhancements to existing conservation projects and pays better for large acreages.
- Coos/Curry CREP Tech
  - Barbara is active with grant reporting and assisting with CREP projects. A crew is in place for status reviews.
  - Sudden Oak Death has been reported north of the Rogue River.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
  - Chris has been acting as liaison for Willamette Valley fires and providing technical advice on hazard trees. About 750 trees at the Hinckel Creek fire will be felled in or close to the creek to provide LWD. He is also supporting ODOT in deliberations with large teams of contractors and arborists about how to fell 110,000 trees.

- Locally, Chris has been providing field support for CoqWA, SWCD on 9 active projects, 7-8 letters of support, and co-managing staff backfilling his position.
- A week and a half of warm water is causing bass to become active, imperiling the fall chinook population.
- Lots of coho and fall chinook have been trapped in/are using tidegate complexes.

8:57PM - 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