



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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Coquille, OR, 97423
Phone 541-396-6879

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2025
(Approved April 24, 2025)

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

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

Board members present on Zoom/Telephone:

Absent board members: Cindy Gant

Staff present in office: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas

Staff present on Zoom:

Guests present in office: Chris Claire (ODFW), Glen Stoops

Guests present on Zoom: Reg Pullen, Stan Dean (OACD)

7:00PM Mark called the meeting to order.

7:00PM Introductions

7:02PM Mark asked for comments on the February 27, 2025 regular minutes.

- Corrections made on minutes
- Discussed selling the truck
- Update on sale of truck
- Mark was not present for the past meeting

7:09PM Jonathan motioned to approve the February 27, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ernie seconded. Motion carried

7:10PM Finance Report – Caley

- Busy with back-to-back grant deadlines
- 18 phases for two different grants submitted
- Completion reports and funds request are currently being worked on since grant deadlines are done
- ODA support grant
- Budget for next biennium
- Budget committee meeting scheduled
- Last month's finance report had incorrect dates (fixed now)
- Adela had a question “general journal”
 - Quickbooks term
 - Caley shared an email she wrote to Fandel explaining what some of the general journal entries were for.

- 8/19/2024 #118 general journal under supplies & materials: Caley will look up what it is for and let the board know.
- Mark asked if we filed taxes
 - Caley explained that we don't file taxes and Fandel covers the employment taxes that we pay.
- Discussed getting quickbooks for staff

7:25PM Adela motioned to accept the February Finance Report. Jonathan seconded. All in favor. Motioned carried.

7:25PM Purchase work truck

- Discussed truck Chris found to purchase but it had sold.
- Low miles, half ton, automatic, dual cab
- Discussed process of purchasing truck
- Caley will get a check from Fandel or go to the bank to get a cashier's check
- District has exempt plates
- Purchase from a dealership
- Should start shopping for trucks
- Contact dealership to find the district a truck
- Less than 110,000 miles
- Gas not diesel
- Under \$20,000
- Might wait to sell the Toyota work truck
- After 2015

7:41PM Discussion ended

7:42PM Stan Dean (OACD)

- Chair of the board Jackson SWCD
- Was on the state soil & water commission
 - Replaced by Bob Webb
- Currently on the board of OACD
- Discussed district managers round table each month
- Newsletter available to be sent to board if requested
- Attend annual conference in the fall
 - Pendleton this year
- CONNECT in Florence
- Committees: Working Lands committee, Legislative and regulatory affairs committee (8-10 active people on committee)
- May develop a communications committee
- Grant hub on the website (sources of grants)
- Natural and working lands guide on the website: best practices for conservation
- Can contact him to help get some statewide publicity for a project

7:50PM Stan concluded

7:50PM Mark asked if we were a member and we have not been able to afford them in the past.

- It would be around \$3000 for the district
- If we can afford it, we should build that into the next fiscal year budget
- Caley does utilize OACD
 - OACD helped with county commissioners
 - Attends district manager round table

7:56PM Jonathan motioned that the district will start paying dues to the OACD. Adela seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

8:00PM Letter of Support

- Regarding the fish kill incident and the Coquille STEP group
- Investigation ended
- Coquille STEP were not satisfied with the result
- Gary had received letters of support from people including people in STEP
- Caley wanted to send a letter of support for Chris in December
- The investigation is over but there could still be value in providing a letter of support for Chris.
- Mark & Adela wrote a letter of support
 - Did mention he is the chair but was not writing in that capacity
 - Mentioned how valuable Chris is to the district
- Caley could come up with a draft and have the board review
- Chris said there are about 30 days left and should be written now rather than waiting.
- Chris did an excel spreadsheet about what he has contributed to the district.
- Jonathan offered to help look at the letter once Caley writes it.
- Mark and Adela support writing a letter from the district.
- Caley will sign as district manager and Mark will sign as the chairman

8:23PM Jonathan motioned to approve Caley to write a letter of support for the value that ODFW provides to the district. Ernie seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

8:23PM Direct Deposit – Modena

- Modena answered the questions from the last board meeting.
- The board will look over the information sent to them and discuss at the next meeting.

8:26PM Staff Reports: Caley

- Shared photos from being out in the field today
- Seining at NBWL project
 - Found 5 (3 in the channel and 2 in the pond)
- Went seining on Atchison's property too
- Site visit with Leo Kuntz (tighten bolts)
- Chris explained the issues with the tide gate to the board
- Caley discussed the possibility of a second pet door.

8:49PM Staff Reports: Modena

- Discussed the murder mystery fundraiser

8:56PM Assistant Project Manager

- Chris discussed working with Abby on engineering design

8:57PM Caley informed the board that Alicia is no longer working for the district

- Will not be filling the position at this time
- Caley 2. FTE
- Modena 1.5 FTE
- Abby 1.7 FTE
- Strayer 1.5 FTE
- Federal and state funding cuts briefly discussed
- NOAA discussed

9:03PM Mark adjourned the meeting.

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date