



Approved December 18, 2018

Clackamas SWCD Board Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2018

PRESENT	Directors:	Jeff Becker (Chair), Don Guttridge (Secretary), Jim Johnson, Jan Lee, Jesse Nelson (Vice Chair), Joan Zuber
	Associate Directors:	PK Melethil
	Directors Emeritus:	Mike Weinberg
	Staff:	Jason Faucera, Courtney Gattuso, Tami Guttridge, Lisa Kilders, Sam Leininger, Eann Rains, Tom Salzer
	Partners:	Kim Galland (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
	Guest:	Steve Wise (Sandy River Watershed Council)
NOT PRESENT:		Roger Fantz (Treasurer)

1 – CALL TO ORDER and ACCEPT AGENDA / PUBLIC COMMENT / DIRECTOR REPORTS / MANAGER’S REPORT ON COMMITTEES

A. Call to order – Chair Becker called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 20, 2018, in the Clackamas SWCD conference room at 221 Molalla Ave., Suite 102 in Oregon City.

Chair Becker asked if there were changes to the agenda. Manager Salzer noted that items under Tab 6 would need to be delayed until the December meeting as the District had not received needed information from Clackamas County.

B. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

C. Board and Partner reports

- Director Johnson reported that the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has posted a report regarding growing canola in the Willamette Valley on their website. Johnson stated the report gives the Legislature options to consider regarding the possible impact of this crop on specialty seed growers.

Director Johnson is also working with two committees on the siting of solar facilities. One committee is with the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the other is with the Department of Energy.

- Director Guttridge reported that he had attended the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts planning meeting on November 14 and 15, 2018. Guttridge felt the meeting went well.

Director Guttridge also reported that he and his brothers had been awarded the Small Woodlands Farmer of the Year award from the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association.

- Kim Galland with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had several topics to report on.
 - Galland reported that Dusty Jaeger's last day was November 16, 2018. Jaeger will be taking a position in South Dakota but is currently on Family Leave to take care of his father.
 - Galland reported that the new employee for NRCS will be Matt Edwards. Edwards, a soil conservationist, will be starting on December 10, 2018.
 - Galland noted that the Farm Bill has still not been approved. If the new Farm Bill includes commercial hemp (not marijuana) as an agricultural crop, it would remove some restrictions that NRCS has in helping farmers with this specialty crop in Oregon.
 - Galland let the Board know that Jason Martin (the regional soil scientist) will be working on a soil survey in the Gresham, Troutdale, Boring, and Damascus areas in the next year. Martin will be studying the impact urbanization has on farmlands and easements in these areas. Martin may ask that the District provide outreach and staff time to complete his survey. Galland noted that Martin would provide soil training for anyone willing to pack equipment for him.
 - Galland will be meeting on November 22, 2018 with Manager Salzer, Staff Faucera, Leo Preston (NRCS Basin Team Leader), Mary Beth Smith (NRCS Program Specialist), and Loren Unruh (NRCS Programs Leader) regarding the National Water Quality Initiative project.
 - In February, Galland hopes to schedule a Local Work Group meeting for Clackamas and Multnomah Counties. The focus will be on soil health and pasture management. Galland will be looking for livestock owners to participate in this group meeting.
 - Galland also asked that she have time on the February 2019 agenda for a required Civil Rights review.

Steve Wise arrived at 4:08 p.m.

- Staff Leininger introduced Courtney Gattuso, the new WeedWise Specialist/Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator, to the Board. Leininger noted that Staff Gattuso had been with the District for about six weeks and he was very pleased with her work and attitude.

- Staff Gattuso thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with the District.

D. Manager's report on committees – Manager Salzer reported no committees had met since the last board meeting but he had been in communication with the Building Committee and the Working Lands Committee.

2 – MINUTES

A. October 16, 2018, Regular Board Meeting minutes – Draft minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on October 16, 2018, were presented. The Board Secretary has reviewed the draft minutes and noted one spelling error to be corrected.

Directors Guttridge/Lee moved/seconded to adopt the October 16, 2018 regular board meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

B. October 26, 2018, Special Board Meeting minutes – Draft minutes from the Special Board meeting held on October 26, 2018, were presented. The Board Secretary has reviewed the draft minutes and noted one spelling error to be corrected.

Directors Guttridge/Zuber moved/seconded to adopt the October 26, 2018, special board meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

3 – FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Review and accept financial reports – Manager Salzer reviewed the October 2018 financial activities report and balance sheet with the Board. The Districts current assets to liabilities ratio is 4.5 to 1. Salzer reported that property tax revenues should arrive next week.

The auditor's field check has been completed and no significant issues were found. The auditor is exploring ways to track expenditures for the Conservation Resource Center. The audit should be completed in time for the annual meeting on December 18, 2018.

Directors Guttridge/Nelson moved/seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Expenditures – Manager Salzer reviewed the November expenditures list with the Board. Check numbers were 1796 to 1853 with no breaks in the sequence and one check voided and re-issued. Check #1815 for Portland General Electric was not received. The check was reissued as #1848. Check #1783 from October was voided for an incorrect amount, and reissued as #1805. Total disbursements was \$187,233.66 with the Conservation Grant Fund totaling \$92,527.08.

Directors Guttridge/Lee moved/seconded to approve the November voucher list. Motion carried unanimously.

4 – OTHER FINANCIALS

A. Molalla River Settlement – Manager Salzer reported that Attorney Luke Reese had received a settlement check and the check was being forwarded to the District via certified mail. The District will recover the cost of consultants and contractors but not the cost of staff time.

5 – PROJECTS, PROGRAMS

- A. Sandy River floodplain reconnection** – Steve Wise with the Sandy River Watershed Council presented a review of the floodplain reconnection project on the Sandy River. Wise noted that the first portion of the project has already proven to be working. A survey of the river shows fingerling fish surviving in the newly created pools. Wise also provided information regarding the next steps planned for this project that will take place near the confluence of the Sandy and Salmon Rivers.

The Sandy River Watershed Council is requesting \$50,000 in funding from the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District for permitting and to acquire large logs for this portion of the project. The Council has received recognition from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and the National Fish and Wildlife Fund for the project. To date, they have received approximately \$960,000 in pledges for a matching grant.

Directors Johnson/Guttridge moved/seconded to approve \$50,000 to support permitting, final planning, and log acquisition for the Sandy River floodplain reconnection project. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Gattuso left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Associate Director Melethil arrived at 4:35 p.m.

- B. Authorization to sign MORE IGA** – Staff Leininger reported on the Managing Oregon’s Resources Efficiently (MORE) intergovernmental agreement (IGA). Leininger explained that the MORE IGA is a state-level agreement that would allow for the efficient movement of equipment, materials, and services between signatories. There are currently 87 public agencies, 24 counties, 45 cities, and 18 other agencies including schools and colleges that have signed the agreement. If the Board authorizes Manager Salzer to sign the agreement, the District would be able to give and receive services between agencies without the need of individual IGA’s. This IGA has been reviewed by the District’s legal counsel.

Directors Lee/Zuber moved/seconded to authorize the General Manager to sign the Managing Oregon’s Resources Efficiently Intergovernmental Agreement (MORE IGA) and to submit the required documentation to the MORE IGA Contract Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Wise and Kim Galland left the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

- C. Watershed Council Support grant review committee** – Staff Kilders reported a staff request to change the Watershed Council support grants from a one-year grant to a three-year grant cycle. The three-year cycle would allow councils to better forecast their budgets and other funding needs. The District would require yearly reports for councils to receive second and third year funding. If reports are not filed with the District, funding would be withheld.

Directors Guttridge/Zuber moved/seconded to modify the watershed council support grant program by changing the term of each grant from one year to three years, as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Kilders asked for volunteers to review grant applications. Directors Becker, Guttridge, Zuber, and Director Emeritus Weinberg, as well as Staff Rains, will serve on the committee. Staff McQueeney will send out a doodle-poll to confirm a date for the meeting.

- D. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) tax incentive program revitalization** –Staff Faucera reported that he, along with other Lower Willamette Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), had been meeting with ODFW regarding riparian and wildlife tax incentive programs. ODFW is mandated to administer and monitor compliance of these programs but ODFW does not feel it has the money or personnel to fulfill this mandate.

These programs are critical tools that the SWCDs use with landowners to help conserve habitat. These tax deferrals incentivize the protection and enhancement of habitat on private lands.

An intergovernmental agreement to help ODFW with these programs was proposed to ODFW but it was rejected. Faucera noted that a state-level fix is needed and that the SWCDs will be talking to the ODFW Deputy Director about how to move forward with these programs. The inability of ODFW to provide for these programs has a large impact on oak habitat restoration because many counties do not view oak forests as qualifying for forest deferrals.

6 – PERSONNEL

- A. Policy modifications needed for benefits program** – Information from Clackamas County regarding health benefits has not been received. The Board consented to postpone this agenda item and item 6B until the December 18, 2018 Board meeting.

7 – BOARD AND MANAGER REPORTS

- A. Authorization for Board Directors attendance at CONNECT** – Staff Guttridge reported that the annual CONNECT training conference will be held from April 9 to April 11, 2019. The location will be at the Sunriver Resort in Bend. Due to limited housing availability, Guttridge has reserved 24 rooms for staff and directors. Guttridge requested that the Board approve the attendance of Board Directors, Associates, and Directors Emeritus at this time so that those who wished to attend could have a room reserved. Guttridge requested that Board members check their calendars and make decisions no later than the end of January.

Directors Lee/Zuber moved/seconded to authorize Board Directors, Associate Directors, and Directors Emeritus to attend the CONNECT training conference in Sun River, April 9 to April 11, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Manager's Report** – Manager Salzer reported on his schedule for the last month.
- Visited the Weyerhaeuser property with Staff Klock to locate a property corner and found an old homestead. This should not have any effect on the acquisition.
 - Met with the County Assessor to request a certificate of taxes paid on the Weyerhaeuser property.
 - Attended the staff appreciation dinner, fun was had by all.
 - Attended the retirement party for Doug Fenwick who worked for the Clark Conservation

District. Salzer is discussing whether Mr. Fenwick will be able to provide part-time engineering services for the District.

- Attended the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts annual meeting.

Staff Kilders reported on her meeting with members of the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Clackamas Community College, Clackamas Emergency Services, and Oregon State University Extension for a discussion concerning wildfire education and preparedness. A good discussion was had regarding what landowners can do to help prevent the spread of wildfires. Clackamas County anticipates federal Title III funds will become available for projects. Clackamas Community College proposed utilizing students studying geographic information systems to connect three databases that may be used by ODF to evaluate forest land parcels. There was enthusiasm for this project and the members will be meeting again before the end of the year.

Staff Leininger reported that the WeedWise crew had wrapped up their field work and were now working on finishing up reports and preparing for next year. A new request for proposals will be issued this year for weed control contractors. Leininger is investigating the pollution control insurance that contractors are required to carry. Leininger also met with the new Oregon Department of Agriculture entomologist regarding biocontrols for knotweed. There is talk about using biocontrol aphids on knotweed infestations in the Molalla River watershed.

Staff Faucera reported on the District's oak restoration program. He and staff have been talking to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) about forest deferrals as ODF considers oak a commercial species. The planners are continuing to work with Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) staff on conservation implementation strategies for oak that they hope to be able to fund in the spring. Faucera has also been meeting with the West Multnomah and Tualatin SWCDs and other agencies on a regional message and strategy concerning oak.

NRCS and the District are working together on the National Water Quality Initiative readiness phase project. One goal of this work is to find a way to make the use of cover crops more attractive to landowners.

8 – PROPERTY, PLANNING

- A. Conservation Resource Center update** – Director Guttridge reported that 4Sight Consulting LLC had submitted the plans and application for the Conservation Resource Center building permit within the requested period. However, per Manager Salzer, the District has not received all of the electronic files for the plan. These files need to be received to complete the first contract with 4Sight. With further discussion, it was decided to continue to work with 4Sight on an as-needed basis, at the request of the District.

Directors Zuber/Guttridge moved/seconded to have the Building Committee and Staff meet to work on a new agreement for 4Sight Consulting LLC, outlining work requests and cost. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Salzer noted that the Board needs to make a decision regarding the house and garage at the farm. Will it be demolished or moved? Director Guttridge asked if there had been any interest shown in moving the house. Salzer noted one couple had visited the farm to look at

the buildings. There was a consensus by the Board that Manager Salzer should check with the couple to see if they were seriously interested. If not, then Salzer should move ahead with contacting P&C Construction regarding the demolition of the house and garage.

- B. Update on the Eagle Creek Community Forest project** – Manager Salzer and Staff Klock visited the Eagle Creek property to locate one of the property corners; it was described as a ten-inch by three-inch rock with an "X" on it. There was too much brush to reach the possible location. The brush will have to be removed before anyone will be able to locate this corner. Salzer and Klock also visited another site on the property that turned out to be a grove of invasive black locust and a pair of very old apple trees. This appeared to be an old homestead, and later Salzer learned that there had been a house there from about the mid-forties to the mid-seventies. A site assessment turned up no septic tank, drain field, or fuel tank. Only a concrete foundation remained. This should not create any problems with the acquisition. The closing date for the property has been rescheduled to allow for appraisal completion and to address language concerning surface and subsurface mineral rights.

Salzer has also been in contact with David Bugni regarding his help with the advisory committee for the community forest. Salzer also contacted Trout Mountain Forestry for a quote to develop a forest management plan.

Staff Rains and Attorney Paulus are reviewing the Community Forest grant to make sure the District fulfills all requirements for the funding.

Mr. Bugni contacted Manager Salzer regarding possible funding available from Portland General Electric to reduce the cost of the project, as well as possible funding to restore fish habitat on Suter Creek. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board may also have funding available for habitat restoration work on Suter Creek. Salzer indicated that the District should partner with the Clackamas River Basin Council on this work.

9 – OTHER REPORTS

- Associate Director Melethil asked if the Working Lands committee had received the e-mail he had sent regarding how to build stakeholder community support. He noted that helping people recognize that what they do to help improve the environment does not have to be perfect. Any help is better than no help at all.

Melethil also reported that he had recently learned that lichens were a good indicator of air quality. If lichens patches are very small, then air quality is poor, but he has seen many larger lichens out in the Mt. Hood National Forest indicating good air quality in the forest.

- Staff Leininger reported that he would be leaving shortly to attend a parent/teacher conference.

Leininger left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

- Director Johnson reported that he had attended the Board of Agriculture meeting in Newport. Johnson recommended working with them as they are working on new strategies that may benefit the District.

Johnson volunteered to join Staff Faucera when he speaks with the Department of Revenue concerning the tax deferrals.

Johnson noted that he will be speaking at the Tualatin Farmland Forum in December.

- Director Lee reported that the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts is looking for legislative concepts and would welcome something from Clackamas SWCD.
- Director Nelson was elected to the Board of the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) and is in the middle of digging season and glad that the rain has held off.
- Manager Salzer noted that the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is seeing an influx of young, energetic, and enthusiastic conservation staffers in conservation districts. CARCD has been wrestling with how to tap the knowledge and energy of these conservationists. CARCD members voted to add three district managers to the association as voting board members.
- Staff Kilders reported that, while at the OACD strategy meeting, she had a conversation with Ray Monroe, manager at Tillamook SWCD. Ray told her that whenever he had questions he would call the Clackamas District and we were always very helpful and willing to share information. This was a very nice complement for our District.
- Staff Guttridge thanked the District for sending her to Special Districts Association of Oregon training on facilities maintenance. Guttridge is working with Manager Salzer to make sure that the District has a facility plan in place for the new building when it is completed.
- Chair Becker asked if there had been any feedback from the management company regarding parking and light. Manager Salzer reported that he had not yet sent the letter.

ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING

- The Annual Meeting will be on December 18, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on December 18, 2018, at 4:10 p.m.
- There being no further business, Chair Becker adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami L. Guttridge
Administrative Assistant