

**Polk Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2017**

Polk SWCD Office-NRCS Conference Room
580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas OR 97338

In Attendance:


Directors

David Simmons (Chair)
Chad Wood (Vice-Chair)
Jock Dalton
Mike Wilson
Matt Crawford

Staff

Karin Stutzman (Manager)
Tom Wilson (Office Admin)

Directors Emeritus/Associates/Guests

Travis Wilson (guest)
Denise Wilson (guest)
SWE REAMS (NRCS) 

BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – David Simmons, Chair, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS- Introductions of all individuals were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT-none

SWEARING IN: Chair Simmons swore in Chad Woods, John Dalton, Mike Wilson and Matt Crawford as Directors of the Polk SWCD.

ACTION ITEMS

REVISED AGENDA: Dalton moved, Crawford second to accept the revised agenda as presented. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote.

APPOINT OFFICERS: Dalton moved, Crawford 2nd to appoint Simmons to Chair and Woods to Vice Chair; Crawford moved Dalton 2nd for Pender as secretary; Simmons moved, Crawford 2nd Dalton as treasurer. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote.

APPOINT ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS: Dalton moved, Woods 2nd to appoint the following people as Associate Directors: Judy Beebe, Mel Chase, and Rachel Walker. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote.

JANUARY'S TREASURER'S REPORT (see attachment A): Woods moved to suspend district policy of no more than \$50k in LGIP and keep money in the LGIP for at least two months or until further notice from the board. Dalton 2nd. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote.

Woods moved, Crawford 2nd to accept the January treasurer's report as presented; passed by unanimous vote.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES (see attachment B): Woods moved, Crawford 2nd, to accept the November 2016 board meeting minutes as presented. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote. Simmons abstained due to being absent.

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY (see attachment C): Stutzman wanted to have a secondary contact after HR manager, such as a board member. *Crawford moved, Wilson 2nd, to accept OACD recommended whistleblower policy as presented, adding "any director" instead of "designee" in paragraph 4, pending SDAO approval. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote.*

BUDGET CALENDAR/ANNUAL WORK PLAN/APPOINT BUDGET OFFICER (see attachment D)

Crawford moved Dalton 2nd and Karin Stutzman as the budget officer. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote.

Woods discussed the need for signs at the Cornerstone Project, specifically red safety zone no hunting sign.

Simmons would like to replace the signs at the county borders, and Wilson said he has been in contact with Benton SWCD and have been working together. He will research the cost of other signs. *Woods moved, Dalton 2nd for a \$1000 budget for the District Manger to have road signs made. No Discussion; passed by unanimous vote.*

DISCUSSION

SDAO CONFERENCE (see attachment E) - Stutzman explained that she will be going, and there is money in the budget for new directors to attend. It is highly recommended for directors to attend.

OACD LOWER WILLAMETTE BASIN MEETING (see attachment F) - Simmons reported that the meeting was productive. He reported that there was discussion regarding land for solar farms instead of agriculture. *Discussion regarding the problems associated with solar power production.*

CD RATES (see attachment G) – tabled until next month.

OACD BUSINESS MEETING (see attachment H) – from October, 2016 - information only.

INFORMATION-

CALENDAR (see attachment I): Information only

DITCH OR STREAM? (See attachment J): *Discussion regarding "waters of the state".*

OACD DIRECTOR TRAINING (see attachment K): Hillsboro (1.11.17) was postponed and has not been rescheduled.

NRCS WORKING GROUP - GROUND AND SURFACE WATER STORAGE: Stutzman explained that Zola, a DC from Harney Count, will facilitate discussion. *Discussion regarding the agenda, the district's role and priorities for the county.*

AUDIT UPDATE: Stutzman stated that she had under budgeted pay roll tax, but the audit went very well.

REPORTS

NRCS – Ms. Reams explained that there have 16 RCPP applications, 3 EQIP, and 1 WRP application. She is starting many new clients she is trying to bring up to speed. She explained that the new president of the U.S. has frozen federal hiring, so the new DC will not start this month as planned. She explained the origin of the Local Working Group. *Discussion regarding CREP.*

WATERSHED COUNCILS

Glenn-Gibson- Simmons explained they meet the third Tuesday, and have done their evaluation from OWEB. There is work on Eola Ridge Park. They have access to \$30,000 from the HIP (habitat improvement program). He explained that they are looking for a new fiscal agent, possibly the district, and Woods expressed concern over liability.

Greater Yamhill- Luke Westphal would like to come to the board meeting quarterly. He explained that he is on the NOWC board and they are doing a membership drive. ODFW restoration biologist program might be cancelled due to budget cuts. He said his council is doing their 2 year work plan for funding. They also need to update their organizational action plan. There is an entirely new board. In Jan-Jun they are performing a needs assessment, and have hired an intern for stakeholder surveys. They are also reaching out to other districts and NRCS to get an overall view of their programs. He sees a reduction of emphasis on fish projects, with perhaps a shift to Oak Conservation. They will also focus on getting new customers to the NRCS funding pools, and making deeper relationships to SWCD's. They are doing Watershed Camps again this spring and summer, and is working with several schools and colleges. They will have pesticide workshops in Yamhill with OSU professors using a model to access specific pesticide distribution.

Rickreall- the large wood placement tour was a big success.

STAFF (see attachment Z) – info only. *Discussion regarding the new law regarding outdoor school funding.*

DIRECTORS-

Simmons- feeling well after surgeries.

Woods- none

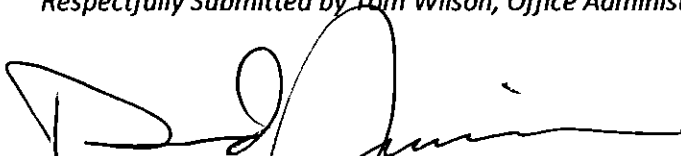
Crawford- safflower crop was hit by the wet winter and he only harvested 5%.

Dalton- none

Mike Wilson- said the Grand Ronde has about 1000 acres of conservation properties, and he is making management plans. He attended a conference in Bend regarding federal land management in rural economies.

ADJOURN: 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Wilson, Office Administrator, January 31th, 2017



David Simmons-Chair

2/8/17
DATE