

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Work Plan Meeting Minutes: **APPROVED**

Location: Polk County OSU Extension Service Office
289 E. Ellendale Ave., Suite 301, Dallas OR, 97338
Date: March 5th, 2014
Start Time: 6:07 PM

Attendance:

Directors	Staff	Directors Emeritus/Associates/Guests
David Simmons	Karin Nembach	Jim Clawson
Chad Wood	Debbie Miller	Tom Finegan
Frank Pender	Tom Wilson	Sue Reams-presenter
Linda Marquardt-Sutton	Lucas Hunt	
	Marc Bell	
	Sawyer Finegan	

CALL TO ORDER

David Simmons, Chair, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:07 PM. Directors Simmons, Wood, Pender, and Marquardt-Sutton were all present to start the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions of all individuals were made.

MEETING PRESENTATION:

Sue Reams from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) reported on the soil health initiative "Unlock the Secrets of Soil", a nationwide effort. She said that the NRCS and District held a soil health workshop on January 22, 2014 that was well attended. She explained the many benefits of the program, including building bridges with local producers. This program can dovetail with many existing SWCD projects and the funding brings money into Polk County, which increases revenues.

Chair Simmons asked about the details of our next workshop, and Conservationist Bell will contact Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and propose a joint event. T. Finegan from the NRCS asked Reams to explain the new test kit the NRCS received and will make available at the next workshop, and she said it can measure soil temperature, pH, respiration, infiltration, and aggregate stability. It is for use by the NRCS on site visits to provide technical assistance.

WORK SESSION:

District Manager Nembach handed out the worksheet (see attachment) and explained each line item. During discussion the board and staff made several recommendations including:

Goal 1 -Technical Assistance:

T. Finegan suggested changing the wording of the type of grants listed to just "grants" to allow for more flexibility.

In the discussion regarding funding options, Vice Chair Woods would like to make sure there is a list of potential funding sources included in the worksheet.

Director Pender suggested cooperating with other agencies as a way to secure grant funding.

Woods suggested using the whole grant amount in the worksheet, as Nembach didn't include the "match" amounts.

Simmons asked Bell to explain the Storm Water Management Program. Bell explained he will go to city meetings and work with the Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) to get the program running again. Bell stated that the cost will be staff time, and he will have a more accurate figure after the next meeting.

After discussion it was decided that any easements will be for the next fiscal year.

Woods said the tax base and fees gives the district a pool of money for staff to budget their hours. There is no room to pay for projects outside of staff time. Staff should pursue grants and outside funding for projects. He explained we need to be conservative in our spending and budgeting. At this time Woods left.

Simmons would like to add conservationist Graham's hours into the working spreadsheet. Nembach will talk to Graham this week.

Simmons reported that the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture changed their rules so the district needs to spend 25% of funds on the focus area.

Goal 2 - Education and Outreach:

Simmons suggested using the NACD poster contests winner to make the outreach placemats and to combine all lines encompassing youth education into one.

Emeritus Clawson suggested combining all workshops into a single line item to allow for flexibility.

S. Finegan would like to see a line item for exploring expanding youth education (Outdoor School, day camps, etc.) Pender wants to make sure the participating school staff is involved and suggested S. Finegan start with a needs assessment.

Clawson would like to see the First Step workshops return to its original intent.

No Discussion regarding Goal 3 – District Operations.

Chair Simmons adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Wilson, District Clerk, March 7th, 2014



David Simmons - Chair

April 9, 2014

Date