

**Polk Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes – APPROVED
March 09, 2016**

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

In Attendance:

Directors

David Simmons (Chair)
Chad Wood (Vice-Chair)
Frank Pender (Secretary)
Kelly Gordon
John Dalton (Treasurer)
Matt Crawford

Staff

Karin Stutzman (Manager)
Tom Wilson (Office Admin)
Lucas Hunt (Res. Conv.)
Marc Bell (Res. Conv.)

Directors Emeritus/Associates/Guests

Sue Reams - NRCS
Judy Beebe - Associate
Mel Chase - Associate
Brian Lightcap - OACD Basin Rep
Jim Clawson - Emeritus
Claude White – Emeritus
Jane Keppinger – Marion SWCD
Tom Finegan - NRCS

BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER - David Simmons, Chair, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Directors Simmons, Woods, Pender, Gordon, Crawford and Dalton were all present to start the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS- Introductions of all individuals were made.

ACTION ITEMS

REVISED AGENDA – Pender moved to accept the revised agenda as presented, Woods 2nd. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: EVALUTATION CRITERIA FOR HELICOPTER RFP- Hunt would like to have the request for proposals (RFP) out by this Friday, March 11, with bids to close March 31 or April 8. He explained the process and has identified the following criteria: hourly rate, mobilization rate, safety record, experience with long line logging, and availability. He asked the board for addition input for ranking criteria. Discussion regarding companies in Oregon that could provide the service.

At this time (6:10) Matt Crawford arrived.

Hunt has had success on another log placement project in 2014. Stutzman said the contract review board has a limit of up to \$150,000. Dalton wanted to make sure staff will not be near the work zone or transit zone, and wanted Hunt to know how much the heaviest tree weights, to check for equipment suitability, and Hunt will calculate that. They are looking for 10,000 pounds lift capacity, would like to see up to 15,000. Hunt explained that there is \$72,000 from BLM, \$(NOT DETERMINED YET) from the Rickreall Watershed Council, \$(NOT DETERMINED YET) Hancock Forestry and the BLM funds expire in 2017. The in-stream work window on the Rickreall is July 1- Oct 15 and his goal is to start the first week in July. Woods asked about the city of Dallas and their support. Hunt said he has gotten a letter of support, and the city has put a line item in their five year budget for reservoir maintenance.

At this time (6:20) Claude White arrived.

Discussion regarding the District's relationship with the Dallas City Council and the need to keep them informed. Beebe suggested asking the company for references, as well as making sure to specify how the bids should be submitted, to ensure an even comparison.

Public Comment: Keppinger talked about the Marion SWCD's re-entry to Ag-Fest, and described it as a fun and educational experience. Last year 7500 pieces of material were given away, and she invited Polk SWCD to participate. The event is April 23-24. Marion SWCD staff is stretched thin that week, and they need help on the Sunday. They have two booths with electricity. If the Polk District is not interested this year, then in the future she would like us to work together. Simmons replied he would like to help.

BASIN MEETING MARCH 17- Mr. Lightcap presented information regarding his vision for the basin meeting. He would like to have real communication between the Districts and the OACD. He asked the board: What could OACD and the commission do to make your board better? What could they do to make other districts better? He expressed concerns about executive performance, and suggested monthly phone conversations with OACD President Mark Saelens. He explained that OACD needs tie-ins to the eastern districts. He also brought up the issue of the lack luster convention, the lack of an early agenda to draw participants, and the bigger needs of the network. Discussion regarding the nature of the OACD Foundation.

Pender mentioned a meeting regarding water flow, irrigation, fish issues, and drinking water next week on March 15 at Pringle Park. Stutzman commented on the lack of information from OACD so far, considering the dues we pay, and is looking forward to monthly phone-in's. Mr. Lightcap said that conservation district's should try and solve their own problems, and not look to outside help.

At this time Tom Finegan (6:54) arrived.

CONTRACT REVIEW (handout #1): Resource Conservationist Bell explained the bids are over the minimum that the District Manager can approve, and Bid B was the only vendor to come out and look at the property. He feels this allowed them to have the most accurate bid. Woods moved to accept bid B, with the possible addition of land treatments as outlined in the bid. Gordon 2nd. As part of the discussion Bid A was revealed as Nick's Timber, B was JL&S Contracting, C was Miller Timber and D was Habitat Restoration LLC. Passed unanimously.

FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT (see attachment A)- Woods moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Gordon 2nd. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

FEBRUARY 10, 2016 BOARD MINUTES (see attachment B)-Pender moved to accept the board meeting minutes as presented, Dalton 2nd. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT: OREGON OLIVE GROWERS (see attachment C) - Beebe wanted to make sure the verbiage does not express any financial obligation. Dalton moved to send a letter of support for the concept, and mention in general the district encourages alternative crops and dry land farming, and olive orchards fit both of these. Gordon 2nd. 5 Yea, 1 Nay (Pender). Passed 5-1.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY (see attachment D)-Woods moved to transfer the amount of \$13,050 from Materials and Services to Personnel in the General Fund. Dalton 2nd. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE (see attachment E) - Pender moved to set the annual meeting date for the 3rd Thursday of every September (this year being Sept. 15th), Dalton 2nd. Chase pointed out a typo in the 2nd paragraph ('on annual' should be 'an annual'. Simmons would like to see the meeting as a 50th anniversary party, and wants the District to make an effort to showcase the recent efforts. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION AREA UPDATE- Stutzman explained that ODA has sent out their first round of compliance letters. They were blanket letters that were slightly confusing to district staff and landowners. The District's understanding is that the 2nd phase of letters will be sent out in April/May, and she requested ODA provide maps or more place specific information regarding compliance issues in the next letter to landowners. The SWCD's role is to provide technical advice if asked to accompany ODA on site visits pertaining to their letters, we are not in a position to determine compliance, and those types of questions will be referred to ODA.

Stutzman then stated that a private citizen reported 27 different properties in Polk County to ODA for Ag Water Quality infractions. The citizen is a Polk SWCD Director who acted on their own accord without consulting the board. Discussion ensued about how an individual action like that reflects back on the district and the district had no part in making that decision. Woods explained the district's role is not one of enforcement, but voluntary stewardship, and wants to have a good working relationship with producers in Polk County. Dalton would like to have staff aware of the safety issues of visiting small farms, and wants Stutzman to document training at the next staff meeting.

Claude White explained that in the past the board's position was one of helping the community, not turning in violators, and he feels that a lot of damage has been done to the district's reputation. Stutzman wanted the board to know she would like to help in reaching out to the community, including drafting letters to landowners who maybe violating the Ag Water Quality Standards to educate them about options, and how the district can help before ODA detects a problem.

Dalton exposed Gordon as the citizen, who explained he reported blatant violations such as fields on a slope not planted in the middle of winter, or had badly eroding ditches. He said he talked to Stutzman last year regarding an issue, and did not see any action taken. Gordon explained that in the future, he would be happy to work with Stutzman to communicate with landowners, but if he doesn't see progress with that method, would then report them to ODA. Stutzman replied that she did act on his concern by requesting SWCD staff go out for a site visit, but it is up to the landowner to take action, since the SWCD does not take regulatory action.

Finegan said this might be an opportunity for partnerships with other farming organizations to educate the public. Simmons said that Garrison is working on a project to address these issues.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENT- Gordon explained that there is a zone change in the Eola Hills. It is 228 acres, 51% of which is high value farm land. They would like to change from EFU (Exclusive Farm Use) to AF10 (Agriculture and Forestry: Ten Acre Zoning District), and he wanted the board to know. Simmons said he is familiar with the land, as it is owned by his father and he has farmed parts of it. He thinks the 51% number is too high. Parts of it have a large slope and it doesn't fit into any easement programs. Discussion regarding the (LUBA) Land Use Board of Appeals.

INFORMATION

MONTHLY CALENDAR-(see attachment G) - Pender would like to see the district sponsor a similar event to the successional planning seminar, and Stutzman said she is working on it. Wilson reported that he has contacted 3 of the 4 names given by the board for the budget committee, but has not heard back.

CLAUDIA- Simmons explained the process of repairing Claudia, which is being done at his property. She is coming along and should be ready by April. The revised estimate is far less than the \$15,000 allocated by the board, and should be around \$5,000.

REPORTS

NRCS AS

NRCS- see handout #2. Finegan explained that Lee Preston will come to address the board next month regarding the lease.

Keppinger reported that the Santiam Water Control District received a grant to address drought planning on the east side of the valley.

WATERSHED COUNCILS-

Luckiamute - Stutzman said they are still working on the 501c3 application, there is a birding tour in April at the Luckiamute State Natural Area, and they are doing a culvert replacement on Price Creek. Stutzman also explained there are two OWEB small grants to upgrade irrigation efficiency in the American Bottom area, which is served by the LWC.

Glenn-Gibson - Simmons reported they got a small grant to finish work for the Eola Ridge Park.

Greater Yamhill - (see attachment Y)

Rickreall - none.

STAFF (see attachment Z)

CHAIR Simmons-none

DIRECTORS-

Woods – Reported seeing more geese this year than most.

Pender – Reported there is a meeting of the Army Corps of Engineers in Pringle Park from 3-5PM next Wednesday to discuss water flow, irrigation, fish issues, and drinking water. He can't make it but would like a board member to.

Gordon -none

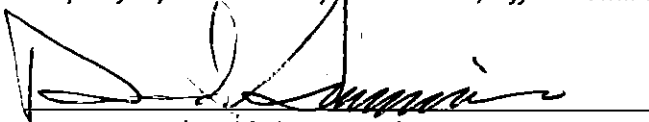
Dalton - Reported that last year they cut his water, even though he feels the flows were greater when they would cut them when he was a kid. White explained that the golf course complained to the water master.

Crawford - none

Beebe - none

ADJOURN: 8:29 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Wilson, Office Administrator, April 5, 2016



David Simmons-Chair

April 13, 2016