

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District
July 8, 2015 - Board Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

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)
Matt Crawford
David McKibben

Staff

Karin Stutzman (Manager)
Tom Wilson (Office Admin)

Directors Emeritus/Associates/Guests

Tom Finegan - NRCS
Jo Morgan - ODA
Ken Bierly – Glenn-Gibson WC
Jim Clawson - Emeritus

BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER - David Simmons, Chair, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Directors Simmons, Woods, Pender, McKibben, and Crawford were all present to start the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

INTRODUCTIONS- Introductions of all individuals were made.

Pender moved to accept the changed agenda (as printed and handed out at meeting), 2nd by McKibben. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION: ODA STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION AREA – (see handouts #1, #2) - District Manager Stutzman explained the Oregon Dept. Agriculture (ODA) reasoning of wanting to show that Ag is doing their job of protecting water quality. Lower Salt Creek and Jont Creek were chosen by staff to be potential project areas. ODA does all the groundwork, mailing, and outreach, and the district only gets involved when asked by a land owner. Jo Morgan from ODA estimated Lower Salt Creek would have about 15 properties in Polk County, and Jont Creek 5-10. Simmons asked where ODA would get staff, and Morgan explained that the ODA budget just passed, allows for 3 new hires, and can access 1 million in OWEB dollars. Morgan explained that there are different rules for different zones (Mid -Willamette Area only considers perennial streams) and anything in Yamhill County would need to consider all streams. There is some confusion if it is separated by basin or county line, and Morgan will do some research and get back to Stutzman. Property would be ranked remotely (aerial photography, topographic maps and GIS) and evaluated for a face to face visit depending on stream bank vegetation, manure management, and other water quality factors. Woods would like to have best practices information sent to the landowners before an ODA visit. Crawford likes the area as it is a heavy agriculture use area, and he feels it is good to be ahead of the curve and not having to catch up. Pender wants the communication to come from local sources. Crawford commented there has been a change in the compliance mentality amongst the new generation of farmers, but that not all farms have the younger generation element. Pender moved for Salt Creek as the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA), 2nd by Woods, No Discussion, passed unanimously. See handout #2 for timeline.

ACTION ITEMS

TREASURER’S REPORT (see attachment A)- Stutzman explained this is an end of year report. Pender moved to accept the June treasurer’s report as presented, McKibben 2nd. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

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

BUDGET HEARING MINUTES (see attachment C)- Pender moved to accept the June 10 budget hearing minutes as presented, Crawford. 2nd. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

OACD DUES – Pender suggested we pay the dues to have a voice in the organization. Simmons said we have been paying full dues and they have not been listening to our voice and suggested paying ½. Pender moved to pay the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts ½ of the minimum dues (\$500) with a letter explaining the balance will be paid on receipt of minutes and financials for the last 18 months, and the improvement of communication of the board. McKibben 2nd. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

FIRST COMMUNITY CU SIGNER UPDATE- Woods explained that Claude White and Tom Thomson are still on this account. Woods moved to remove Claude White and Tom Thomson from all accounts, 2nd by Pender. No Discussion, passed unanimously. Current signers are Frank Pender and Chad Woods. McKibben moved to add John Dalton as a signer on all accounts, keeping Frank Pender and Chad Woods. 2nd by Crawford. No Discussion, passed unanimously.

OREGON CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP MEETING-(see attachment D) Information only. Regional meetings begin this month. There is one in Corvallis on August 6th. Pre-registration required.

MONTHLY CALENDAR-(see attachment E) - INFORMATION ONLY

POLK COUNTY FAIR SIGNUPS- Stutzman explained there are 3 shifts that need to be filled. Pender said he will take Saturday 2:30 to 6pm.

COUNCIL COORDINATOR POSITION- Mr. Bierly reported that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has allocated about \$88,000 for Glen-Gibson WC and Rickreall WC and would like to contract with the district for a coordinator to complete some projects left by the previous coordinator. He would really like to share services with RWC. Simmons stated that it is a possibility to have our new outreach coordinator work for the GGWC as well. Bierly will address his board and make a proposal to give to the district.

LICK SKILLET WWMP- Stutzman explained that we have been approved at every level so far. Woods said out of 6 properties Lick Skillet ranked 3rd (one point out of 2nd place). Once the seller accepts the sales price as determined by a yellow book appraisal, it takes about a year to work through the WWMP closing process. Stutzman explained that the district can only offer the Yellow Book Value as the sales price and no more.

RE-ADVERTISING FOR OUTREACH POSITION- Stutzman said that a good candidate was offered the position, but she declined.

MANAGER UPDATE- Stutzman explained the following:

- Annual Report is in the works as well as many fall workshops. LIVE (Low Input Viticulture & Enology), RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program), and CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program).
- She has made an Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Yamhill SWCD for \$120,000 over 4 ½ years (1/2 time person). Yamhill is the lead for the RCPP project.
- Meetings – with the City of Dallas, BLM (Bureau of Land Management), and WWMP (Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program). , Stutzman offered them the District's technical assistance. She also met with Sean Irving (city manager of Independence) who is working on bringing new technology to farmers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONELL: Discussion regarding Minimum Wage Increase. Woods explained the Districts formula for figuring out pay (it is based on longevity, and is a percentage of the minimum wage, so if the wage goes up, everyone's salary will rise).

Wage Increases for Hunt, Bell, Graham:

Pender moved to accept the recommendation of the committee to give raises as follows:

- Hunt: from Step 2/Year 2 to Step 2/Year 3 (\$38,736.17)
- Graham: from Step 2/Year 3 to Step 2/Year 4 (\$19,755.45 for half time)
- Bell: from Step 3/Year 3 to Step 3/Year 4 (\$44,449.76)

Woods 2nd. Discussion: Typo in the attachment, Graham from step 2/year 2 is incorrect. Minutes reflect the correct amounts, passed unanimously.

EASEMENT: Stutzman explained the committee has drafted a policy. (See handout G). Highlights of the policy: Property only in Polk County, needs to be approved by the whole board, not conservation goals alone (working lands element), and not near Urban Growth Boundaries. The District does not have funds to purchase land, but would work with partners programs such as WWMP funds for any future conservation easements.

PARTNERS/DIRECTORS' REPORTS

NRCS- Sam Bartling is leaving this Friday. 3 new Conservation Stewardship Program contracts, all EQIP are obligated and funded. The WRP properties have ongoing maintenance (mowing, spot spraying). He reported the NRCS was recommended for funding in the Upper Yamhill Implementation Strategy for working riparian areas.

WATERSHED COUNCILS-

Luckiamute- Walked in the Independence City Independence Day Parade with the District to collect garbage at the end of the parade and make the point that "Trash in the streets drains to the creeks, so take your trash with you".

Glenn-Gibson- Handed out an invitation for a film showing at Salem's Riverfront Park on Sept. 20th that highlights the restoration of the Willamette River, and unveiling off the Willamette River Report Card.

STAFF (see attachment Z)

CHAIR- Simmons asked about the location of the annual meeting and Stutzman said it will be at the Oregon Department of Forestry compound in Dallas. Simmons also commented that Hunt presented at the Forestry Workshop in Salem.

DIRECTORS-

Woods- Water level is down to late August levels.

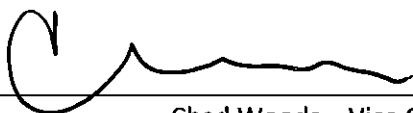
Pender- Level 2 fire alert. There is a large fire outside of Detroit, and he feels it is going to be a long fire season. Possible lightning this weekend.

McKibben- Had a question about irrigation (how low the creek can go before they shut it down?). Stutzman will do some research and get back to him.

Crawford- none

ADJOURN: 8:08PM

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Wilson, Office Administrator on July 15, 2015



Chad Woods – Vice Chair

August 12, 2015