

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

September 13, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

580 Main Street, Suite A, Dallas OR 97338

In Attendance:

Directors

David Simmons (Chair)
Chad Woods (Vice-Chair)
Frank Pender (Secretary)
Mike Wilson
Jock Dalton (Treasurer)
Matt Crawford
David McKibben

Staff

Karin Stutzman (Manager)
Tom Wilson (Clerk)
Lucas Hunt (Forester)

Directors Emeritus/Associates/Guests

Judy Beebe - Associate
Mel Chase - Associate
Ken Bierly – Glenn-Gibson WC
Rich Wolcott - Rickreall WC
Jenniffer Bakke – Rickreall WC
Evelyn Conrad – NRCS

BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – David Simmons, Chair, called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Directors Simmons, Woods, Pender, Crawford, Wilson, McKibben, and Dalton were present to start the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS - Introductions of all individuals were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PRESENTATION - NRCS & CIVIL RIGHTS: See Handout #1

Highlights:

- Board Member Responsibilities
- Program Outreach
- Federal Program Delivery
- Public Notification Requirement
- Affirmation of Review
- Section 1619 Compliance

ACTION ITEMS

AUGUST TREASURER'S REPORT (see attachment A) - The audit has been completed. *Pender moved to accept the August treasurer's report as presented, Dalton 2nd. No Discussion; passed unanimously.*

AUGUST BOARD MINUTES (see attachment B) – *Pender moved to accept the August board meeting minutes as presented, Dalton 2nd. No Discussion; passed unanimously.*

DISCUSSION:

RICKREALL & GLENN GIBSON WATERSHED COUNCILS AND POLK SWCD: See handouts #2 & #3.

Stutzman explained that she was asked by the board at the August 2017 board meeting to try and provide more information regarding the Glen Gibson and Rickreall watersheds Council proposal for more shared services, Hunt (council coordinator) had created a list of deliverables since that meeting, and she now wanted Hunt to explain the council's position to the board. The councils want to pursue a short term contract (less than the biennium) for coordinator services, while exploring a possible fiscal sponsorship with the District and creating a partnership amongst the groups, where the district would absorb the councils business and form a tri-lateral partnership style relationship.

Questions from the District Board to the Coordinator:

Why isn't Glen Gibson on the contract with RPC&D (the council's current fiscal sponsor)?

Simplicity, less fees, and MOU's. So then who is liable for Glen Gibson? Or legally supporting their work? New proposal would have separate agreements for each.

Why should the District take on what is already being done by the current fiscal sponsor for the councils?

It could be cheaper for councils if the District agreed to charge less of an administration fee, it would help with the councils program efficiencies, and the district would get the administration fee. Bierly said they are trying to work together with other agencies to increase conservation. He is proposing the opportunity to explore ways to improve conservation, both urban and rural.

Dalton said that he would expect a lot of money spent on legal counsel to set up a partnership, so who would pay for it?

Bierly said that there would be funds available from OWEB to pay for it. Hunt said they have OWEB capacity funds for this biennium. There may be other funds available as well.

Woods stated the district use to be a fiscal sponsor, and there were problems with liability. Woods would like the councils to work out their problems with OWEB first, and continue the status quo here at the district, but possibly work towards changes in the future, if the District and OWEB see improvement in the councils merit criteria a year from now. He is primarily concerned with soil erosion.

Stutzman highlighted the type of partnership collaborations the district already has, where she doesn't have to take on the entire "business structure" of the partners to create a partnership, just form it around a project, where you all work together to solve a problem. Existing partnerships are at an arm's length, not combining together all our business functions. She stated it would not behoove the district at this time. Dalton said it is difficult to form a partnership with non-entities. Beebe emphasized the difference between "partnering" and "partnership" and warned the board to keep these terms clear.

Bakke said there are other opportunities, and they need to know if the District is interested before they spend any more time in creating a plan. She stated that there are many districts that pair with councils, and the two council boards thought it would add to efficiencies.

Discussion regarding liability and workload.

Wolcott stated the RWC has not done a lot in the agriculture sector. Beebe stated that it is a huge responsibility to become a fiscal sponsor, and the district would need other staff to help with the accounting. Crawford and Dalton stated the councils need to make a strong case for the district to be involved. McKibben said he thought it was outside of the District's mission. Woods suggested the councils come back to the board with more information for a later discussion.

Woods moved to continue the status quo by renewing the coordinator services with the RWC and GGWC contract thru June 2018 with the changes listed below. 2nd Simmons. No Discussion; passed unanimously. See handout #3.

Changes:

- There will be an increase of 43.3 to 45.6 hours a month (from 50% to 57%) of Hunt's time.
- Page 17, change end date to June 30th 2018.
- Page 20-21, will not need articles for the newsletter.

OACD STRATEGIC PLAN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH:

Simmons said that the strategic plan is moving forward very slowly. Next meeting is November. No good applications the first round. The job description was rewritten and has been sent to the committee. The position will remain open until filled. Pat Fitzgerald is the new OACD President and has put out a newsletter.

INFORMATION:

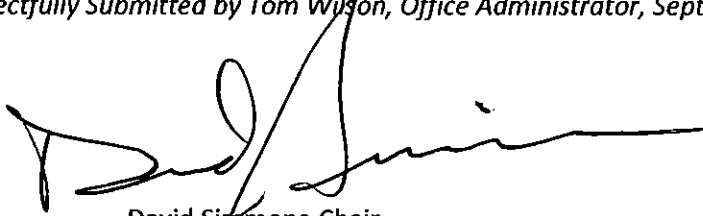
ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE: January 10, 2018 at Pressed, Dallas OR.

CALENDAR: (see attachment C) – info only

ROAD SIGN UPDATE: (see attachment D): Wilson reported it is still a work in progress. They have verbal agreements from four landowners and he is developing a contract to access their property.

ADJOURN: 9:00

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Wilson, Office Administrator, September 13, 2017.



David Simmons-Chair

10/11/17
DATE