

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District
Annual Meeting Minutes – APPROVED
September 17, 2015 6:00-9:00 PM
Oregon Department of Forestry – Dallas Unit
825 Oak Villa Road, Dallas OR 97338

In Attendance:

Directors

David Simmons (Chair)
Kelly Gordon
Frank Pender (Secretary)

Staff

Karin Stutzman (Manager)
Tom Wilson (Office Admin)
Marc Bell (Conservationist)
Sawyer Finegan (Youth Outreach)
Lucas Hunt (Forester)

Directors Emeritus/Associates/Guests

Tom Finegan - NRCS
Judy Beebe - Associate
Mel Chase - Associate
Jim Clawson-Emeritus
Sue Reams - NRCS

DINNER SERVED

ANNUAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER - David Simmons, Chair, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

Directors Simmons, Pender, and Gordon, were all present to start the meeting. No quorum, but no business being discussed.

INTRODUCTIONS- Chair Simmons introduced directors.

Financial Summary and Budget Review: Karin Stutzman shared the financial summary (see handout #1)

Innovative Conservation Award - Bogdan Caceu for his conservation-minded decisions concerning water quantity, use of solar power, and pollinator hedgerows.

Polk SWCD Annual Review: Karin Stutzman stated that there are 4.5 FTE and highlighted workshops, events, and restoration partnering. She noted Oak Savannah, riparian large wood debris placement, CREP, and the many collaborations the District had thru out the year. She also talked about the outreach the District is doing, including the Polk County Fair, native plant sale, working with youth interns, networking and conservation easements.

Small Cooperator Award - Karin Saul for unmatched enthusiasm and focus in land management.

NRCS Review: See handout #2 - Tom Finegan introduced the NRCS Staff. Sue Reams talked about EQIP and the changes that have occurred since 2010. Some aspects of the program are well head protection and forest health. She spoke of the partnership with Grand Ronde for elk and fish habitat. Reams also mentioned the RCPP money the district brought to Polk County. She talked about possible future drought and the need for irrigation efficiency, and the conservation stewardship program that awards farmers for existing conservation work. Tom Finegan then talked about other programs that are bringing money into Polk County.

Director of the Year Award - Chad Woods for his leadership and mentoring of District staff and management throughout the years.

Presentation: Conservation Easements – Owen Wozniak from the Trust for Public Lands described the programs of his organization, *Parks for People and Our Land and Water*. TLP started in 1970, and has been in Oregon for 30 years. They are currently working in the Eola Hills in Polk County and on Hayden Island. TPL always works with partners, never on their own, as community goals and identity are a priority. He stated that working lands are an important part of what

they do. He pointed out high habitat values and how growth and conservation must work together for voluntary habitat conservation. He stated District is unique as it is locally elected and publicly funded. Wozniak explained the many different aspects of conservation easements, including as a flexible tool to address the realities of continued production and working lands.

Associate Director of the Year – Judy Beebe for her selfless dedication to improving all aspects of District Operations.

Director Emeritus of the Year –Jim Clawson for mentoring District staff and his tireless efforts in promoting the District

Watershed Council Reports:

Luckiamute: Kristen Larson talked about the many programs the LWC does including invasive species eradication, riparian revegetation and education/outreach.

Karin Stutzman received a humorous award for leading by example how NOT to clean the streets.

Rickreall: Lucas Hunt talked about his work with large wood placement, fish trap and haul, and survey of Rickreall creek for knotweed.

Glen-Gibson: Lucas Hunt is the new coordinator. GGWC is located in West Salem and is working on a rain garden grant (Wallace park) and in the Audubon Reserve. They will be having a showing of the new film “UPRIVER” on Sunday in Salem, which takes a look at restoration efforts over the last 10 years for the Willamette River and its tributaries.

Greater Yamhill: Nessa Hays and Theresa Craine (staff) reported they have started a watershed education program, and worked with over 400 students. It included 3 weeks of day camp, teacher training and trying to get a STEM based program going in rural schools.

Appreciation Awards:

Polk NRCS Office for its support in helping District Staff bring conservation activities to Polk County.

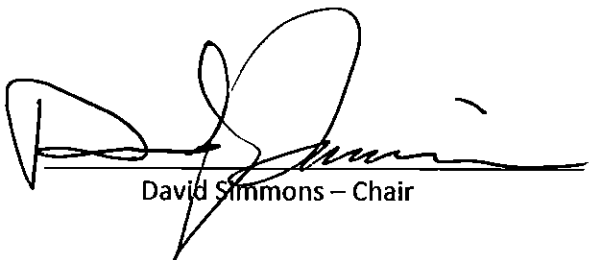
Yamhill SWCD for its support in helping grow conservation programming in Polk County.

Oregon Department of Forestry Report: The Dallas Unit is one of 3 offices that make up Western Oregon District. It has 2 programs: a private forest operation and fire protection program. There are 6 permanent staff that have completed over a million dollars in fuel reduction work. They also ship out to coordinated state efforts for wildfire fighting.

David Simmons received a humorous award for best director selfie.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15PM

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Wilson, Office Administrator, September 23, 2015



David Simmons – Chair

10/14/15
Date