

**Polk Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes – APPROVED
August 10, 2016**

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

In Attendance:

Directors

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

Staff

Karin Stutzman (Manager)
Tom Wilson (Office Admin)

Directors Emeritus/Associates/Guests

Lois Loop - Emeritus
Judy Beebe - Associate
Sue Reams- NRCS

BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER - David Simmons, Chair, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:12 PM. Directors Simmons, Woods, Pender, and Crawford were all present to start the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS- Introductions of all individuals were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT-none

ACTION ITEMS

REVISED AGENDA - Pender moved to accept the revised agenda as presented, Crawford 2nd. No Discussion; passed unanimously.

JULY'S TREASURER'S REPORT (see attachment A) – Stutzman reported she has updated books for the auditor and Beebe helped find a few mistakes to change before the auditor sees them. She explained the line items and answered questions for the board. Pender moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Woods 2nd. No Discussion; passed unanimously.

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

DISCUSSION

STREAM FLOW REPORT – Stutzman reported on her conservation with District 16 Water Master Plahn. The Rickreall was put on water rights to 1964 on August 4th. The Luckiamute is at 24 CFS and it will go on restrictions at 20 CFS.

OREGON AG HERITAGE MEETING (see attachment C)-Stutzman explained that the group met last week and she attended. She explained the program as a group of stakeholders who are meeting with the governor to set aside a pool of money to protect farmland (easements, working lands, and incentives for conservation). She explained the loss of working lands leads to a loss of local food sources, habitats, and economic opportunities. She asked the board for any suggestions to bring to the group. The goal is to establish a fund for grant and incentive programs used in the protection of working lands, and to help with technical assistance and habitat improvements. Pender asked if it was all tied together (i.e. succession planning requires habitat protection), and Stutzman said that they will try and make it individualized, but probably so.

Funds would come from the federal government thru OWEB. Loop explained that many things they talked about already existed at the federal level, but they want to leverage the funds in state. She explained that they are still dealing with the big picture, and she would like to know how the legislature would fund this when they can't fund their current projects. She stated that it is recognition of the importance of agriculture. Pender suggested education and tours for the legislature to give them hands on experience of agriculture. Discussion regarding the economics of agriculture, and the historical changes in Polk County. Simmons wanted to know if they would look at the estate and inheritance taxes on ag land and Stutzman said that according to her information from the meeting they would study that issue. Loop suggested legal assistance for fighting the changes in laws. Stutzman said they will only be meeting a few more times.

At this time (6:44) Sue Reams arrived.

NRCS Report: Reams reported that they have 8 contracts this year. She explained that they have developed a new funding source for forestry thru EQUIP. The new fund is a diverse forest fund, emphasizing young diverse plantations, to help slow disease spread from root to root. The new fund is in the Luckiamute watershed, focusing on family forests. She explained that the target area can move after this year if needed.

At this time (6:43) Dalton arrived.

Discussion regarding Salt Creek, the definition of 'waters of the state', water quality and ODA. Crawford would like to see the district do outreach and study the problems facing farmers, what they are doing well and what needs improvement to help the state understand the reality on the ground. Stutzman liked the idea and will look into having Garrison work with Crawford. Discussion regarding wildlife habitat and diversity, and the lack of water.

POLK COUNTY FAIR- Info only.

ANNUAL MEETING - Info only. The board will meet before or after the annual meeting if needed.

Discussion regarding the progress of the Cornerstone Project.

INFORMATION

DIRECTOR ELECTION UPDATE-Dalton will check with Mike Wilson of the Grand Ronde tribe.

WWMP TECH REVIEW TEAM RANKING (see attachment D)-The District was ranked #3 on the Smithfield Oaks Project. If funded it will probably take about a year to close. Pender suggested the board do a walk around on the property. Stutzman explained it is on the list for a Society for Range Management (SRM) field visit in October and the board could come then.

SUCCESSIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP- Stutzman explained the workshop will be put on by the district in January 2017. OSU will present "Ties to the Land", a basic informational process to set goals. The next two workshops (in February) will be regarding forestry and wildlife easements. Simmons suggested Nellie McAdams from Multnomah SWCD, who is familiar with these issues, as a contact/speaker.

RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY (see attachment E) - information only, see handout. Stutzman explained it will go to the legislature for more discussion.

CALENDAR (see attachment F) - INFORMATION ONLY

REPORTS

WATERSHED COUNCILS:

- Luckiamute-Stutzman explained they submitted its 501c3 application. She and staff went to see a culvert replacement project on the Luckiamute. At tomorrow's meeting they will reprioritize their work.
- Glenn-Gibson- Simmons said they are moving forward with the Eola Ridge Project.
- Greater Yamhill- (see attachment handout #1)
- Rickreall- Discussion regarding the large wood placement project. Work likely to begin the 25th of August.

STAFF (see attachment Z)

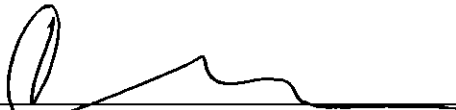
CHAIR Simmons-none

DIRECTORS-

- Woods- none
- Pender-none
- Dalton explained that 3 bridges have been installed on Pedee Creek. Many county roads are being vacated because of lack of funds.
- Crawford said his yields are down in fall and spring grains, due to the July heat wave. He spoke with a vintner from France's pinot area, a 19th generation farmer, and she explained their succession protocol (automatically split evenly among heirs resulting in over 80 families owning a small portion of the original parcel of land. Discussion regarding Oregon farm succession.
- Beebe – none
- Loop - none

ADJOURN: 8:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Wilson, Office Administrator, August 16, 2016



Chad Woods – Vice Chair



DATE