



REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 21 at 12:00 p.m.
Zoom & USDA Service Center 1 SW Nye Ave Ste 130
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Call to Order – 12:09 p.m.

- 1) **Introductions/Roll Call:** Andrea Kreiner (Guest), Andrea Mann, Berk Davis, Colin Hemphill (Chair) Tom Straughan (Sec/Treas), Aaron Madison, Tim Spratling (Vice Chair), Nate James (NRCS). Staff- Kyle Waggoner, Gabby Garrido.
- 2) **Swear-in Elected Directors and Appoint:**
 - a. Andrea motioned to appoint Aaron Madison to the Zone 1 position, 2nd by Tim. Unanimous. No discussion.
 - b. Andrea, Berk, Colin, and Tom were elected to their positions. All were sworn in with the oath of office, which will then be sent out post-meeting to be signed.
- 3) **Presentations: NRCS, ODA**
 - a. Nate is working through the applications awaiting funding and is waiting to see what funding will be available due to the new Farm Bill. He anticipates a projected \$500,000 available in forestry dollars, with \$75,000 available for fire affected counties allowed. Currently, all funds are in the fire pool, and he is currently working on if some funds can be moved from that pool to the Cropland and Stock Water pools. Berk and Tim agreed that diversifying the funds and putting them back into Cropland and Stock Water was the best course of action. Nate mentioned there were many applications in the Stock Water pool, with only enough funds for one-three projects. Tom asked how many applications were submitted. Nate said there were 30 applications in Stock, 50 in Cropland. Tim remarked rewarding some in each classification that had the highest return on investment would be the most beneficial with the limited funds. Tom and Aaron agreed. Andrea asked where the greatest need was, and Nate replied he would bring ranking information from the applications to the next board meeting (if in fact the money can be reallocated from the Fire pool) and have the board review all applications for best ROI.
 - b. Amanda's last week, and Nate mentioned that now they are down another employee and now there's a hiring freeze.
 - c. Local work group will be at the Convention Center Tues 10-12, SWCD sponsored lunch.

4) Administration:

- a. December Treasurer's Report
 - i. The money market was closed as discussed, and the expenditures were normal. There's an opportunity to upgrade the account. The expenses are slightly higher for the month due to SIA monitoring purposes which will be refunded by SIA.
 - ii. Kyle researched upgrading the account with Banner Bank to enable ACH capability, which will be discussed later in the meeting.
 - iii. Tom requested a shorter financial report - Kyle will include both a summary and the full report in the next board meeting.
 - iv. Andrea made a motion to file the report. Tom seconded, unanimous.
- b. November Meeting Minutes
 - i. Tom moved to approve minutes, Aaron 2nd. Unanimously approved. No discussion.

5) Operations:

- a. OrCan HUB Opportunity
 - i. Kyle will bring more information for the board at the next meeting. The plan is for SWCD to be a hub for Umatilla County to help distribute information and resources, along with assisting with soil tests. The Soil Health Hub secured a grant for funding and will use SWCD as a pilot. More information will be available at the February meeting. Tim mentioned googling OrCan provided good information about the organization, and Kyle will include the link in the roundup. Andrea Kreiner meets with them bimonthly and will attempt to attend their conference on Wednesday, 1/22.
- b. Watershed Council – MOU Contract?
 - i. Doug Bennett quit and Ken Thompson is the temporary chair. They approached Kyle for assistance. The Walla Walla Water Council has received their board's approval to help keep them afloat.
 - ii. The board agreed SWCD will not take over and become the fiscal sponsor. Kyle proposed three options: A) Enter a contract to help finish reports and get kickback; B) Support the Walla Walla council in doing the work and remain in the conversation with the councils. Option; C) SWCD removes itself completely and stays uninvolved. Tom said Walla Walla has multiple employees and they should merge, but SWCD should stay in contact to see if there's a chance to step in and help. Tim & Colin agreed. Berk asked if the concern for money was for more money or the management of money already available. Aaron asked if Kyle was considering the dissolution of the water council (if Walla Walla takes over and dissolves the water council). Dan & Troy want to keep it alive and in the running. Up to Walla Walla & County Commissioners. Kyle believes the Umatilla Board just wants it gone and dissolved. . Andrea offered to step in and be a board member if the Water Council needed another member in order to make decisions. Tim and Colin agreed.



- c. Water Control District IGA Adoption
 - i. Discussion was tabled for next month.
- d. Banner Bank
 - i. Kyle brought to the board the option of upgrading SWCD's account with Banner Bank in order to allow the organization to use ACH at no extra cost. As long as the amount is kept at \$75,000, the bank would allow 50 ACH transactions per month. There is no upgrade cost, and payroll would be greatly improved. However, there is a \$75/month penalty for the account going below the minimum balance. Kyle would still have his paycheck countersigned, but all the check mailing would be removed. Tom agreed it was a great idea. The board agreed the only drawback would be the inability to move more money into LGIP. Aaron asked about changing the account back if the new account didn't work for SWCD. Kyle replied there would be no penalty and no conversion changes (it's only an internal process with the bank.)
Moted by Aaron, 2nd Tim, unanimous.
- e. Andrea Kreiner
 - i. Andrea talked about her newsletter she would be sending out that would include information on all the bills that may be relevant to SWCD to hit the Oregon Legislature this session. The bills will be categorized into three sections: Bills they will definitely be involved in, bills to keep a close eye on, and informed bills that need close attention because they may be relevant in singular locations, but will be up for the district to follow up on.
 - ii. Andrea's organization also works with ORCon, and currently has a PR specialist on board through the end of the year for getting good press for the land councils and trust. As good projects arise, get those stories to Andrea for them to be promoted by the PR hire. She just sent an email for a grant hub for helping to find funding. She will keep updating & improving, and asked for participation in the webinar next month.
- f. Grant and Project Updates
 - i. SWCD was invited to the County Commissioners & Confederated Tribes meeting for an update on the Walla Walla Project. SWCD is beginning to be included for the regional planning meetings alongside the smaller projects, which was the hope and direction SWCD has been working towards.
 - ii. Three grants were funded: funded for ODA - Tom & Colin qualify for the funding pool (not heaviest competition because of SIA projects). Both are for fencing off creek with off-channel livestock trough (\$15k)
 - iii. In the spring, Kyle will resubmit for Birch Creek. Last year was unsuccessful because SWCD was recommended for funding but one below the budget line) and OWEB requested better maps.
 - iv. Need match for RCPP for Ukiah and the tractor RCPP. Finding matches with Bobby Levee for state funded match pools for that program, and then every county except for Wheeler.
 - v. Designated county leads for each county for receiving match & polygons for their area.

- vi. Basin study finally completed, now expecting a kick back. Kyle working with the heads to see mission statement and plan of attack to present to the larger partners (tribes, fisheries, etc)
- vii. Kyle is also planning on submitting an Ag Water Quality grant to perform an analysis project that will match the AgWQ Plan for Walla Walla. Kyle will be working with the Walla Walla Watershed Council.
- viii. For the SIA, Kyle has had trouble locating the water monitors because they're underwater from the recent flooding.
- ix. Helix will be rekindled because SWCD won't use GDOC as an applicant and Kyle will plan on attending the next Council Meeting.
- x. Questions: Tim - Helix projects would like to be involved!
- xi. Aaron complemented.

6) **Adjourn- Motion by Colin, 2nd by Tim 1:03 p.m.**

Next Meeting – February 18, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.