



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday April 18th, 12pm
Zoom and USDA Service Center 1 SW Nye Ave Ste 130
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Call to Order – 12:00 pm

- 1) **Introductions/Roll Call:** Directors – Colin Hemphill, Tom Straughan, Tim Spratling, Berk Davis, Aaron Madison. NRCS – Nate James. Staff- Kyle Waggoner
- 2) **Director Swear-In, Oath of Office Forms, and Appointment:**
 - a. Aaron Madison – Zone 1 – Aaron Madison was sworn in as Director for Zone 1.
- 3) **Presentations: NRCS** – Nate updated the Board on recent NRCS activities. The local office just finished contracting 1.4 million in EQIP, and the CRP sign-up is about halfway done. Tom asked Nate about the general vs. HEL sign-up, since some of his tracts didn't get enrolled in the HEL. Nate said he would take a look and get back to him. The CSP sign-up just closed, 37 applications were submitted. IRA funding will increase CSP funding in the future sign-ups. Regarding staffing, Nate will be getting a new soil con in June and some basin positions will be hosted in the Pendleton office.
- 4) **Administration:**
 - a. February and March Treasurer's Report – Kyle presented the February and March financial statements. Kyle mentioned to the Board that he was on track to hit the \$200,000 bank account goal by the end of the year. Tim moved to adopt, Aaron 2nd. Unanimous, no discussion.
 - b. February Meeting Minutes – Tom moved, Tim 2nd. Unanimous, no discussion.
 - c. ODA Updates – Tom informed the Board that Marganne Allen, lead of the ODA SWCD program, recently passed away unexpectedly. The ODA is reeling with the loss, and Kyle mentioned that ODA is still down in staffing and that Tom's position hadn't been filled.
- 5) **Operations:**
 - a. New Flood Coordinator Contract – Commissioner Meeting the 26th at 9am – Kyle presented the new contract proposal that he will be presenting to the commissioners on the 26th, and asked for the Board's feedback. Berk implored Kyle to not back off \$20,000, as it made sense to bump up the contract to actual hours spent. Aaron liked that the drone fees would be split and billed separately from the standard contract. Tim moved, Berk 2nd. Unanimous.
 - b. Guidebook SOW – Kyle presented the SOW from Anderson & Perry for the flooding guidebook. Berk asked Kyle to look into copyright/ownership as the finished product get closer. Kyle explained that the guidebook was meant to be a zero cost option to landowners all over the county, and potentially even all over Oregon. The Board will revisit the copyright question once a finished project is in hand. Tom moved to sign the SOW, and Aaron 2nd. Unanimous.

- c. McKay Creek Phase II Comments and Response – Kyle displayed the Do Not Fund comments from the OWEB review team. Each of the three concerns listed were un-addressable as written. Since they required moving pieces that would completely undermine the project. Kyle explained to the Board that we have two options – write a written testimony to OWEB requesting a second look, or resubmit this fall with an attempt to refute the three concerns. Tom moved to reapply in the fall in lieu of written testimony, Berk 2nd. Unanimous.
- d. Weed Contract IGA's
 - i. Employee of District vs Weed Department – Kyle presented two IGA's that legal had but together for two different approaches to the collaboration project with the weed department. Kyle explained the pros and cons between hosting the employee at the District vs. at the County. The County would allow for better employee retention and would make more sense to be housed at Teddy's office due to the amount of correspondence Teddy would need with the individual. However, housed at the District there would potentially be more District work the employee could tackle. Berk and Tim both saw either option as being viable, but Berk thought that if they got the right person, they could do even more for the District beyond the contract. Kyle thought that this sort of position probably couldn't do administration, GIS, and field work – it would take a very unique individual with a large skillset to be able to accomplish all of those options. For the type of work in the contract (administration and GIS), housing at the weed department would make the most sense. Kyle proposed to flush out a final proposal in this vein and present to the Board before meeting with the commissioners. The board agreed with this course of action.
- e. Project Updates – see attached. Kyle reviewed current projects.

6) Adjourn 1:44pm- motioned by Tim, 2nd by Tom.

Next Meeting – May 16th, 12pm USDA Service Center and Zoom

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