



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 17th, 12pm
Zoom and USDA Service Center 1 SW Nye Ave Ste 130
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Call to Order – 12:04 pm

- 1) **Introductions/Roll Call:** Board – Colin Hemphill, Chair. Tim Spratling, Vice Chair. Tom Staughan, Sec/Treas. Andrea Mann, Berk Davis (arrived 12:28pm). NRCS – Nate James. Staff- Kyle Waggoner.
- 2) **Director Swear-In, Oath of Office Forms, and Appointment:**
 - a. Aaron Madison – Zone 1 – Not in attendance.
 - b. Tim Spratling – Zone 2 – Oath of office signed and swore in.
 - c. Colin Hemphill – Zone 5 – Oath of office signed and swore in.
 - d. Appointment (Motioned by Tom, 2nd by Andrea to appoint Berk Davis to At-Large Zone 2. Unanimous)– Berk Davis, At-Large 2 oath of office signed and swore in.
 - e. Appoint Officers – Tom moved to keep the same officers (Colin as Chair, Tim and Vice Chair, Tom as Sec/Treas). Tim 2nd, unanimous.
- 3) **Presentations: NRCS** – Nate James filled the Board in on current NRCS activities. A new funding pot will be coming soon to the county, designated IRA funds. These funds are attached to carbon credits. Nate expects that the funding increase will be seen in '24 and '25. In early summer Nate would like to sit down with the Board to take a look at the new dollars to see what practices need to be prioritized. Nate also mentioned that the CRP program hasn't been announced yet but they expect to hear anytime. To that point, Nate informed the Board of the recent hiring of Tom Demianew to the NRCS program. Tom Demianew will be focusing on getting the CRP in the county up to date. Nate also has a new hire coming in, Levi Norton, which will restore staff capacity for the local office up to a more reasonable number.
- 4) **Administration:**
 - a. November Treasurer's Report – Filed. Motion by Tim, 2nd by Andrea. Unanimous. Kyle mentioned that the payroll report will be included in the financials for the future.
 - b. November Meeting Minutes and Annual Meeting Minutes – Filed. Motion by Andrea, 2nd by Tom. Unanimous. No discussion.
- 5) **Operations:**
 - a. Scheduling Long-Range Planning Session – Kyle asked the Board what they would prefer for an upcoming LRP session. Tim thought just extending the next scheduled regular Board meeting into a long-range session would be ideal. The Board agreed. Kyle will prepare for it by putting together an agenda and asked the Board if they want anything specific to discuss in the meeting to reach out by the end of January.
 - b. Watershed Field Day – Kyle asked the Board how they would like to approach the Watershed Field Day program going forward. Since 2020, Kyle has been unable to get the necessary presenters together to host the standard field days and has instead been running in-house options for whatever school would like it. Kyle asked the

Board if he should let the schools know that the program is officially changing to the new in-house option or try and continue. Tim thought that if the presenters once again are unavailable, to look at beefing up the in-house option going forward. Kyle will reach out to the presenters one more time and see before letting the schools know of the new formatted change.

- c. Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Eastern Region – Tom let the Board know he had once again volunteered to be apart of the OACD board. Andrea expressed interest to train under Tom as Tom would like to stop serving soon.
- d. Project Updates – attached. Kyle reviewed the grant tracking sheet and filled the Board in on current and existing projects. No discussion.
- e. Payroll Report – included in check detail going forward

6) **Adjourn- 1:04pm - Motioned by Tim, 2nd by Colin. Unanimous.**

Next Meeting – February 21st, 12pm USDA Service Center and Zoom

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