



*Coos Soil & Water Conservation District  
371 North Adams  
Coquille, OR, 97423 Phone 541-396-6879*

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2016  
(Approved December 15, 2016)

Regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Board members present: Mark Villers, Dan Pierce, Adela Villers, Ernie Newton

Absent board members: Charlie Waterman, Chuck Steffensmeier

Staff: Caley Sowers

Guests present: Christopher Claire (ODFW) Eric Moeggenburg (NRCS)

7:05PM Caley sent sign in sheet around

7:05PM Meeting called to order

7:05PM Chris Claire talked about the Ross Slough Channel re-meander project that is nearing completion.

7:11PM Eric Moeggenberg gave NRCS report early, since he needed to leave. He talked about wrapping up his fiscal year, waiting to make some changes for this next year's NRCS local working group. Wants to maybe hold the meeting in Coos Bay to stimulate interest among landowners in that area, hopefully will include Coos Watershed in the next CIS as it has previously only extended to Coquille and Curry counties.

- See attached NRCS report
- Discussion of techniques for developing a low-flow spring in very silty soil/NRCS funding
- RCPP

7:29PM Eric Moeggenberg left the meeting early.

**7:32PM Dan moved to accept the August 25, 2016 minutes. Ernie seconded. All approved. Motion passed.**

**7:34PM Adela resolved to hold the Coos SWCD Annual Meeting November 10, 2016 from 6PM to 9PM. Dan seconded the motion. All approved, motion passed.**

Caley asked Mark to sign the Secretary of State report, which is due annually by Sept. 31st

Caley asked Adela if she would judge the Guerin Memorial Essay contest, Adela agreed.

Caley and Chris Claire gave details of the North Bank Working Landscapes and Tidal Channel Restoration project.

Caley passed around copies of the staff report and Dawn Weekly's program manager's report for the Coquille Watershed Association. Further discussion ensued about the North Bank Working Landscapes and Tidal Channel Restoration project and its strengths and weaknesses:

Strengths/Pros:

- Working landscape emphasis
- Agricultural water quality benefits

- Has economic benefits to the landowner
- Benefits to fish & wildlife habitat as well as water quality
- Assisting landowners with dike repair and tidegate replacement creates potential for good press among other landowners in the area struggling with similar issues.

Weaknesses/Cons:

- High project cost
- Chris Claire stated that the biggest selling point of this project is really positive impacts towards relations with landowners, rather than restoration value, although there are some fish habitat benefits to the project. This may make it less competitive among other OWEB grants with higher restoration value, and could have a lower likelihood of funding.
- Landowners will still need to come up with a significant portion of match. We still need to have that discussion with them if they are interested in working with SWCD, which we do not know for sure yet because Kelly Miles still needs to talk to the landowners about transitioning project management from the Coquille Watershed to the Coos SWCD.
- Possibility of going to WRCA for a portion of the match, but WRCA funding cycles can be unpredictable and don't have specific timelines or deadlines.
- Caley asked about using CREP as a partial match. Chris said that because of the narrowness of the field, CREP would be too much of a setback for the landowners.

8:09PM continuing discussion of North Bank Working Landscapes and Tidal Channel Restoration project.

- Chris Claire detailed methods that would be used to repair and reinforce the dike.
- Discussion of removal of existing spruce trees currently growing on the dike.

**8:10PM Adela moved that the board grant Caley permission to pursue submitting the North Bank Working Landscapes and Tidal Channel Restoration project to OWEB for the fall 2016 cycle. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.**

**8:30PM Adela moves to pay the Coos Grange Coop with SWCD general fund and get reimbursed from the OWEB small grant once funds are direct deposited. Ernie seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.**

8:38-8:55PM Chris Claire ODFW report: Chris reported on the recently completed Stulls Falls project

- May open up spawning habitat for up to 1000 chinook
  - That figure may be an optimistic ballpark figure but the project does have potentially huge benefits for salmon populations above the falls, which chinook could previously not get over.
- Mark discussed technical details of the project, including methods of cutting rock used to carve channels through the sandstone bedrock.
- Mark discussed his use of a diamond chainsaw bit for cutting rock

8:56PM Meeting adjourned.

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Signature of the Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submitted by:

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Caley Sowers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date