



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

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District  
Regular Meeting Minutes-  
February 23, 2017  
Approved (March 23, 2017)

Regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM

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

Absent board members: Charlie Waterman

Staff: Caley Sowers

Guests present: John Fandel (CPA), Christopher Claire (ODFW), Eric Moeggenburg (NRCS)

7:15PM Meeting called to order. Mark was slightly late, having come from the recently completed Wood Creek small grant project site

7:20PM Chuck Steffensmeier – Chuck reads and signs the Oath of Office – (after elections newly elected members must be sworn in)

7:25PM January DRAFT meeting minutes – Accepted with corrections: (Roger Dahl’s name misspelled).

**7:25PM Ernie moved to approve January minutes. Adela seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.**

7:26PM Treasurer’s Report – John said we are doing very well managing the budget. District Operations fund is about 67%, and SOW is about 55%. We are currently 59% of the way through the year, so we are fairly on-target with regards to our budget.

- Mark talked about the small grants - \$70,000 left in the pot, few applications received this biennium.

7:35PM Discussion about how small grant funding works – Caley explained that the District only gets about \$600 in cash off each one, therefore they really are mainly a community service that we offer, since we typically end up spending more than we make back off of each one in administrative allowance.

**7:40PM Dan moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Ernie seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.**

7:42PM Caley mentioned the newsletter, which was extremely productive this year

- Lots of phone calls from landowners
- 4 site visits completed so far
- 2 more to be scheduled
- Multiple grants resulting from landowner contacts made via newsletter response

7:52PM Projects committee meeting – TBA

- Chuck suggested we do an electronic roundtable to avoid having to schedule another meeting.
- Mark agreed it would be easier for him too.
- Caley said she would send around draft project maps and photos with a rough outline budget and basic explanation for each.

- Discussion of pros and cons of April submittal of Melissa King grant
- 5-6 small grants
- Caley slightly overbooked with projects

8:23PM Mark asked Eric to chime in on farm succession tours. Eric said he's recently been to a presentation on farm succession and that it's a very important topic for NRCS.

- It's a big issue right now as the average age of most farmers is 58 and some don't have children to pass their land onto.
- It's also really expensive to buy land these days so hard for young farmers to start out.
- A trend of companies and corporations buying up land and leasing it out to tenants.
- John said that it's a very complicated issue legally, and you can't forget the human factor when it comes to formulating a plan for these types of family/land/succession scenarios.

8:35PM Rushal Sedlemeyer – work study / volunteer

- Volunteer forms – template language from employee handbook
- John Fandel – volunteers have to be covered by worker's comp insurance.
- SDAO should have template form.
- Need to call and make sure policy still covers one volunteer.

8:49PM Eric Moeggenburg's Report – see attached report

- He hasn't been at the office for ten days so report is largely the same as January's.
- Future budget cuts likely under new administration.
- Salmon super highway
- RCPP

8:56PM Ernie / CWA (Mark Villers)

- Recently worked with new CWA program manager and coordinator on a job – Mel & Caleb
- Meet and greet potluck coming up on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Chris Claire added– CWA's Seestrom project application received low recommendation for funding, ranked 16/17 (project budget was \$804,000 including match tidegate/fence & plant)

9:02PM ODFW Report/ Christopher Claire

- Winding down on killing elk this time of year/damage tags/landowner preference still available
- Ernie asked about damage tags for turkeys causing a nuisance outside his work. Chuck wanted to know if you can live trap turkeys. Chris said to talk to Stuart Love or John McLoughlin about specifics.
- Finished flying/looking for elk; Tioga numbers look good but not seeing a lot of elk while flying over. This could be because Elk may be up in timber due to all the rain and bad weather.
- Planting projects recently completed with Caley – the auger was extremely helpful planting in the hard clay soils on Offield.
- Steelhead spawning; hatchery vs wild fish
- Currently collecting brood-stock for hatchery: Need volunteer donation fish/ still 30 individuals short
- Hatchet creek slide / fish kill

9:30 PM ODFW Report concludes

9:31 PM Mark asked if there was any other business to address; Caley mentioned there is still the matter of participation in this year's Natural Resource Tent at the Coos County Fair this year, which we did not get around to discussing at last meeting.

9:32 PM: Discussion about expenses of fair tent,

- Why the cost has gone up so much
- How many other agencies will be participating this year
- Alternative options...renting individual spaces inside
- whether the event is worth the commitment of staff time and financial resources since the Coos County fair has appeared to be dwindling each year

9:39PM Hold off on fair tent for decision to look into alternate options

- Visit fair board meeting

9:40PM Meeting adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Caley Sowers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date