



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

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District  
Regular Meeting Minutes-  
Sept. 28, 2017  
(Approved Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 2017)

Regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM

Board members present: Ernie Newton, Dan Pierce, Chuck Steffensmeier (Mark and Adela Villers arrived late)

Absent board members: Charlie Waterman

Staff: Caley Sowers

Guests present: Christopher Claire (ODFW), Eric Moeggenburg (NRCS), Barbara Grant (Curry SWCD), John Fandel (CPA)

7:13PM Mark arrived slightly late due to Mark's working out of town. Adela delayed, would be arriving slightly later.

**7:06PM Mark asked for any comments on August 2017 minutes. Dan moved to approve the minutes from August. Ernie seconded the motion; all in favor (no opposed), motion passed.**

**7:20PM Dan moved to approve August 2017 Treasurer's Report. Ernie seconded the motion; all approved, motion passed.**

7:21PM Eric Moeggenburg (NRCS) gave his report early due to his needing to leave: see USDA printed report

7:25PM Caley asked about Jan Geany's Project, and whether she'd be a potential candidate for an EQIP contract. Eric said that he knew she had been in the office before to inquire about EQIP, and wasn't sure but worth looking into.

7:30PM (Returning to normal scheduled Agenda: Caley passed around Annual Budget spreadsheets from 2015-17 and 2017-19, for comparison (Charlie had requested at the August meeting to see this year's budget compared to last year's). Brief discussion of budgetary details followed.

7:40PM Stalley Family/North Bank Working Landscape Project Discussion

- Project backstory & history review
- OWEB restoration grant submitted fall of 2016 but not funded; recommended to reapply for TA grant
- Met with landowners in March 2017 to discuss reapplying for the OWEB Spring cycle; after discussion, all agreed it was reasonable and acceptable to wait until the Fall cycle, (as it would likely not have altered the overall project timeline)
- Landowners attended April 2017 board meeting and briefly presented on their own project
- Coos SWCD board moved to continue to redevelop the application and submit in the fall.
- May 2017 SWCD obtains word that one of the (Stalley) landowners had communicated to Coos County Commissioners frustration with permitting processes, an expectation of greater assistance than was available, and general discontent with the time needed to develop and implement a project. SWCD received information identifying that the same landowner considered the fact Dan Pierce and Caley Sowers were related as a nepotistic work relationship. In addition this same landowner expressed that the work by Caley to date on the Stalley Restoration Project was a conflict of interest

due to previous landowner disagreements between the two landowners. Landowners later apologized for negative remarks about the Coos SWCD

- Caley felt she needed to share with the board due to potential liability factors
- In August Caley and Mark Villers visited Richard Stalley at his residence to discuss the negative comments and the status of the SWCD and Stalley relationship.
- Following that visit, SWCD received an apology email from Richard Stalley concerning his brother's negative comments.
- The board discussed the Stalley relationship and asked Caley if she desired to continue to work with the Stalley's following the highly negative comments.
- Caley and board decided that the apology was adequate to maintain the relationship, and did not want to penalize the whole family for the actions of one member.

**7:56PM Mark moved to continue to submit the Stalley/North Bank Working Landscapes TA grant on or before the November 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. Chuck seconded the motion; all voted in favor (Dan Pierce abstaining); motion passed.**

Caley explained DEQ 319 revised agreement (for obtaining additional funds in the amount of \$2242). Money would be used to purchase five to six new loggers, and cover labor costs.

**8:06PM Dan moved to approve the new DEQ319 agreement. Chuck seconded the motion; all in favor (no opposed): motion passed.**

8:07PM Caley announced the upcoming 2017 Annual Meeting, and suggested we return to holding it in December to avoid having to plan an event around the time of the fall OWEB deadline, and let it double as an Annual Meeting/Christmas party. She asked for any ideas or suggestions for guest speakers and location. There was general consensus to keep using the OSU Extension building as it is free and usually available. Caley suggested finding a local historian to talk about historical farming and the early settlers to the south coast area.

The board agreed that might be an interesting topic to have this year. Someone also suggested the name of Carl Jernstead, to possibly speak about toxic plants and livestock grazing, as another alternative topic. Chuck suggested checking in with Kasandra Rippee at the Coquille Tribe. Dan suggested Reg Pullen as a possible speaker. It was generally agreed to wait until the next meeting to set the official date by resolution, but Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> was the favored date, depending on guest speaker and venue availability.

8:20PM Caley noted the letter from Curry SWCD which had been included in board packets. Liesl Coleman, Curry SWCD district manager, had called the Coos SWCD office and wanted to inquire about the need for discussion around an MOU about working in each other's Districts. We have geographic boundary lines that follow the Coos and Coquille watershed boundaries, but in practice we tend to stay within county lines. Sometimes this can be confusing, and there are occasionally questions about where our district boundary lines lie, and whether a particular landowner or project should fall within Curry or Coos SWCD. Also, sometimes the Curry or Coos SWCD may be asked to perform functions in the other's Districts. She is wanting to establish a protocol so as not to step on each other's toes.

Caley also noted the Agrimet sponsorship request and explained the program and its purpose. She explained that we can't use SOW funds for sponsorship, only general funds.

**8:35PM Mark Villers moved that the Coos SWCD contribute \$250 towards sponsorship of the Agrimet weather station program. Chuck seconded the motion; all in favor (no opposed), motion passed.**

8:40PM Discussion of hiring Rushal Sedlemeyer as a temporary/seasonal employee. Caley explained that Rushal has volunteered for the District before, and is recently unemployed following a summer job with ODFW surveying at the docks. Caley had put together a budgetary scenario which would utilize some general funds, but showed how we could essentially employ Rushal part-time through January, and potentially longer if additional funding could be obtained. The scenario was based on full-time employment at a rate of \$12/hr,

but since Rushal would only be working part time her rate could be \$15/hr in keeping with her experience and education level. Caley had checked already with ODA to verify that we are not required to publicly advertise the position, although could do so if we wanted to seek additional applicants.

**8:53PM Adela Moved to approve the hiring of Rushal Sedlemeyer on a temporary/seasonal basis. Chuck seconded the motion; all voted in favor (no opposed) motion passed. Caley added that she would cover all the legal necessities (employment verification, W4, I9, and develop a job description for Rushal).**

8:55PM Barbara (Curry SWCD/CREP)

- *(See attached printed report)*

9:01PM Barbara concluded

9:02PM Coquille Watershed – Ernie Newton/Christopher Claire

- *(see attached printed report)*

9:03PM Christopher Claire (ODFW)

- Chris showed a video of drone footage of the Beaver Slough Drainage District's Winter Lake tide-gate project.

9:15PM Christopher concluded/ Meeting Adjourned

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Signature of the Chairman

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Date

Submitted by:

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Caley Sowers

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Date