



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

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2024
(Approved April 25, 2024)

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

Board members present at office: Mark Villers, Ernie Newton, Adela Villers

Board members present on Zoom/Telephone: Michael Clary

Absent board members: Cindy Gant

Staff present in office: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas, Andrew Chione, Abigail Richards

Staff present on Zoom:

Guests present in office: Katie Woodruff (NRCS), Chris Claire (ODFW), Barbara Grant (Curry SWCD)

Guests present on Zoom: Beth Pietrzak (ODA)

7:02PM Mark called the meeting to order.

7:05PM Mark asked for comments on February meeting minutes.

7:05PM Ernie motioned to approve the February 22, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Adela seconded. All in favor.

7:06PM Finance Report – Caley

- Close to the \$250,000 limit
- Auditing each grant with the finance report
- Caley explained applying for the funds requests.
- Suggested we get Quickbooks to have the same system as the accountant to make it easier to match the finance report.
- Created spreadsheet for Noble Creek contract.
- Will continue to audit the different funds sources.
- Mark discussed the insurance after speaking with the branch manager at the bank.
 - \$219,000 average / \$195,000
 - Put money in the treasury.
 - Suggested to put the extra money in the treasury account.
 - If we get a \$300,000, we might split that into two separate payments to keep under the \$250,000 rather than get an insurance policy.
 - Caley is working on getting online banking to monitor.
 - Discussed electronic transfers.
 - Possibly need to send some funds back to OWEB.
 - Cunningham was funded \$93,000 – final design and permits.

7:18PM Adela motioned to accept the Finance Report. Ernie seconded.

7:18PM Old Business – Winter Lake Phase III update

- ACU permit up for hearing.
- Work session – lots of public comment about mosquitoes.
- A new staff report needed to be issued after the work session for upcoming hearing.
- We addressed the criteria required by county planning.
- Submitted impact analysis.
- Media news story
- Team members have been meeting and compiling evidence to go on the record.
- Letter from John Ogdon (retired attorney) stating what the code says and where the application is in the process.
- Have not been able to dispute the analysis.
- Rescheduled the hearing to April 17th at 1:30PM
- Discussed appealing the judgement.
- Fear is all of us will have to go through this process for every project.
-

7:29PM New Business

7:29PM Remove past Vice-Chairman (Charlie Waterman) as a signer on the Coos Soil & Water Conservation District checking account at Umpqua Bank.

- At this time we do not have a Vice-Chair.

7:30PM Adela motioned to remove past Vice-Chairman (Charlie Waterman) as a signer on the Coos Soil & Water Conservation District checking account at Umpqua Bank. Ernie seconded. All in favor.

7:31PM Mark representing the district at the Coos County Commissioner Hearing.

- Caley explained to the board what is needed in order for Mark to represent the district.
- Discuss Mark's stance at the hearing.
- Mark wants to inform the commissioners how Winter Lake Phase III will be a benefit.
- Speak as a restoration contractor and chair of the board.
- Michael asked if it would help if more members of the board were present at the hearing. Caley said yes.
- Written testimony needs to be submitted by April 5, 2024.
- Mark and Michael each get three minutes to speak.
- Caley read Eric's email.

7:45PM Adela motioned to authorize Mark Villers and Michael Clary to represent the district in regard to the Winter Lake Phase III at the Coos County Commissioner Hearing on April 17th or any date after. Ernie seconded. All in favor.

7:45PM Beth Pietrzak (ODA) report

- Coos SWCD will be awarded Outstanding District of the Year at CONNECT this year.
- Beth praised Caley, staff, and the board for all of the good work being done.
- Beth needs a list of the things we're proud of
- Photos of NBWL and tidegate, riparian planting, water quality monitoring
- Bullet list of projects and activities with photos
- Continuing to work in the SIA's.
- Open compliance cases with a few landowners
- Compliance letters are sent to landowners and emailed to SWCD.
- Asked for advice on dealing with a difficult landowner.
- Made recommendations for another landowner.
 - Mark discussed the work he is doing with the landowner.
- Discussed project in NF SIA
 - ODFW found juvenile salmon in the ponds.

7:55PM Beth concluded

7:55PM Review Engineering Contract (Waterways)

- The past contract timed out and lost previous contractor.
- Business Oregon has been extended through 2025.
- Put out solicitation for quotes and Waterways came back with \$199,000.
- Only have about \$80,000 in Winter Lake Business Oregon budget
- \$16,000 left in the TNC
- Contracts over \$150,000 need to go through RFP process in district's rules.
- Award a partial contract for discussion.
- Extension not set in stone for 2025.
- Caley could solicit a couple more quotes to satisfy the requirement.
 - Has not drafted the contract.
 - Project committee meeting prior to next board meeting
 - \$80,000 may need to be spent by June.
- Permits will be an in-house design per Chris.
- Project Committee members; Mark, Cindy, Caley, Andrew and Chris
 - April 12th for meeting
 - Caley will talk with Eric and get a couple of quotes prior to the meeting.

8:13PM Adela motioned to authorize the chair to sign the engineering contract based on the recommendation of the Project Committee on the condition that it in compliance with public contracting regulations for the engineering contract for Winter Lake Phase III. Ernie seconded. All in favor.

8:13PM Organization Growth & Development – Board Recruitment

- Discussed possible people to join the board for Zone 1, 4, and 5.
- Chris discussed his recommendations for new board members.

- Chris and Caley will reach out to the potential board members.
- Discussed potential rezoning.
- Caley has been working on the LRBP.

8:32PM Katie's report

- 12 pre-approved applications out of 27
- Funding over one million dollars
- Interviews to replace position.
- Interviews for program assistant
- Conservation Stewardship Program – 7 applications
- Caley will send Katie the archeology report.
- Tidegate CIS modifications need to be done before the end of April.

8:37PM Barbara's report (Curry SWCD)

- CREP projects discussed.
- CoqWA will be using CREP for one of their projects.
- FSA – working on cultural resources process.
- Curry County projects
- CREP - Can ask buyers to assume contract or pay back everything plus interest/damages.
 - If they pass away, it is considered a no-fault cancellation.

8:41PM Chris' report (ODFW)

- Sampling with Watershed Council
- Discussed fish in the floodplain and wetlands.
- Winter Lake Phase III – authorized agent
- Been on the advisory team.
- Been working with Caley on the Winter Lake Phase III

8:45PM Staff Reports – Caley

- Nothing new to add to the written report.

8:46PM LRBP questions

- Review board member responsibilities discussion.
- Will continue to discuss in the future.
- Draft has been sent into the state.

9:04PM Staff Reports – Andrew

- Nothing new to add to the written report.

9:04PM Staff Reports – Modena

- Nothing new to add to the written report.

9:04PM Staff Reports – Abby

- Nothing new to add to the written report.

8:40PM Safety Meeting

- General fund over \$100,000. Consider buying a new truck.
 - Reimbursement for mileage would cover a truck payment.

9:07PM Mark adjourned the meeting.

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date