



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2024
(Approved March 28, 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

Staff present on Zoom: Andrew Chione

Guests present in office: Katie Woodruff (NRCS), Chris Claire (ODFW), Barbara Grant (Curry SWCD), Fred Messerle (District Manager for Beaver Slough Drainage District)

Guests present on Zoom:

7:00PM Mark called the meeting to order.

7:03PM Introductions

7:05PM Mark asked for comments on Regular and Annual meeting minutes.

- Typo – at 7:54PM “Marked” need to be changed to Mark
- Both say “Annual Meeting” at top and need to be changed

7:07PM Adela motioned to approve the January 25, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Ernie seconded. All in favor.

7:07PM Adela motioned to approve the January 25, 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. Ernie seconded. All in favor.

7:08PM Finance Report – Caley

- Mark contacted the bank regarding insurance for having a balance over \$250,000
 - No response – will let the board know when he finds out more
- Caley has not had time to review the finance report – district is not over \$250,000
- ODA Support Grant – Andrew is billing hours and there is not a budget line item
 - Will check line item on time card
- Last quarter report approved
- New budget will be added

7:15PM Adela motioned to accept the Finance Report. Ernie seconded. Michael abstained.
Tabled for next month since there was not a unanimous vote.

7:16PM Old Business – none

7:16PM Winter Lake Phase III Notice

- Caley explained what happened with the County Planning Department and other projects.
- Application called for hearing review.
- Hearing date is March 5, 2024
- Beaver Slough Drainage District is the actual applicant.
- Fred Messerle explained to the board what the hearing entails.
 - Bob Main requested this application be brought before the Coos County Commissioners.
 - Discussed obstacles pertaining to this happening.
 - A work session was requested instead of a hearing.
 - Mosquito issues would be alleviated.
 - Move water across the landscape to benefit habitat and agricultural.
 - Met with Chris and Caley
 - Waiting on Planning Department's staff report
 - Planning a presentation for commissioners
 - Discussed tidegates, culverts and the whole systems.
 - Rebuild channel system - operate and maintain it.
 - Dike and berm repairs
 - Monitoring report on CoqWA website
 - 2008 was when the Winter Lake conversation started.
 - Waiting to hear back from County Planning regarding if it will be a work session or a hearing.
 - Looking for support
 - The work session is less formal and gives more time for presentations.
- Chris discussed ODFW's land acquisition.
- Discussed the permitting issue with 404 permits.
- Nationwide 27 discussed.
- Discussed impact on agricultural community.
- Discussed tidegates and permits.
 - The process has become very complex.
- Caley discussed what they will be doing in preparation for either a work session or a hearing.
- Need capacity for fish passage.
- Mark asked if he should attend and it was agreed that he would attend.
- A hearing must be more targeted on the topic.
- Caley included the Coquille Tribe
- The work session or hearing will be held at the Owen's Building.

8:08PM Discussion ended

8:09PM Fred Messerle left the meeting

8:09PM Long Range Business Plan

- Caley discussed

- Caley has been unable to review it
- Check in with Cindy and table it until next month
- Send into ODA with disclaimer that it is a draft
- Restructuring staff positions to LRBP – need more time

8:14PM Staff position restructuring – Andrew discussed

- Monitoring and restoration projects
- Focus on monitoring to simplify job position
- Reduce hour to part-time
- Caley discussed mental burden strain
 - Keep the knowledge in the district
 - Monitoring – own specialty
 - Will look at budgets
 - It impacts other projects
 - Need to hire someone else
 - Abby hired to assist Andrew
 - Need to restructure Abby’s position
- Michael in favor of what works for the team
 - Wants to make policy a priority
- Caley is supportive of Andrew going part-time
- Wants to finalize the LRBP

8:28PM Personnel Committee – Ernie offered to be on it.

- Clarify with Eric (ODA) regarding Ernie being an alternative member
- Current members: Caley, Cindy, Chris and Adela

8:29PM Caley discussed burnout

- Doing a reset at the office
- Need to update employee handbook
- Crafting job description for Project Manager

8:35PM Staff Reports – Caley

- Lost engineer for Winter Lake Phase III
 - Trying to get another under contract
 - Waterways is preparing a proposal
 - Funding coming to an end
- Discussed Business Oregon

8:38PM Abby picking plants then going to AFS next week

8:40PM Safety Meeting – nothing new to discuss

8:41PM Katie’s report (NRCS)

- 27 applications
 - Deadline 02/23/24

- Trying to hire program tech
- Will join hearing
- No written report this month
- Discussed powerlines at project site
- Fence for 2025 and tidegate for 2026

8:49PM Katie concluded

8:49PM Barbara's report (Curry SWCD)

- CREP – FSA to do own consultation
- 3-4 CREP projects
- FSA – has no archeologist
- Project on state land
- Discussed cultural resources
- 6 projects in development

8:57PM Barbara concluded

8:58PM Chris' report (ODFW)

- Helping Caley with Winter Lake Phase III
- Cottonwoods
- Sandy Creek

8:59PM Mark adjourned the meeting.

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date