



Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes-
April 27, 2017
(Approved May 25th, 2017)

Regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

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

Absent board members: N/A

Staff: Caley Sowers

Guests present: Christopher Claire (ODFW), Eric Moeggenburg (NRCS), Barbara Grant Curry SWCD/CREP Tech), Jarrod Burt (landowner), Richard Young (landowner), John Stalley (landowner)

7:02PM Meeting called to order

7:02PM Mark explained as an aside that he had missed last meeting due to Coos Watershed Association Annual Meeting having presented a memorial scholarship for Teddy Villers.

7:10PM Charlie moved to approve March 23, 2017 meeting minutes. Dan seconded the motion; all in favor (no opposed), motion passed.

John or Seth Fandel were not present at the meeting to review the Treasurer's Report, but Caley had recently completed the Quarterly Reporting (due April 17th) and was able to report that, as far as scope of work funds, the District will be at \$12, 725.00 for the final quarter, which is neither under or over budget.

7:15PM Dan moved to approve the treasurer's report. Ernie seconded the motion. All approved (no opposed); Motion passed.

Caley explained that from discussing with WHA, SDAO, and Leisl Coleman at Curry SWCD, she had learned that while we are not technically required to offer volunteers Worker's Compensation, it is considered a best management practice to do so. Volunteer's may sign a volunteer release form signifying that they understand the District will not provide worker's comp, but that does not mean that they cannot sue the District if they are in fact injured while volunteering. In order to begin offering volunteer coverage, we need to sign the volunteer resolution from WHA, and fill out the forms with updated estimates of payroll per the various class codes that volunteers and staff's labor would fall under (primarily director/sales, landscaping, and office clerk), and send these forms in to SDAO/WHA by May 19th. Caley suggested that a limit be set of up to two volunteers at a time for a maximum of 40 hrs. per month.

7:25PM Adela moved to adopt the volunteer resolution. Dan seconded the motion. All approved, resolution passed.

7:30-7:50PM Discussion of Ag Water Quality – outreach water/quality

Caley had a question about the board's feeling toward our approach to landowners who are not receptive to outreach, and presented a photo of a very muddy feed lot near the river as an example. In the focus areas, particularly, this presents a challenge because of our need to meet the focus area task requirements; yet we work with landowners only on a voluntary basis. If landowners simply say, "not interested," it can make it very difficult to meet our Focus Area objectives, and especially so if the landowner owns a significant portion of the Focus Area. She wanted to know if as a board we wanted to make any further effort of outreach with these landowners, perhaps something slightly more formal, but still respectful and friendly; as in the case of the county road temporary repair on North Bank Rd., where the board sent a letter to the road master urging him to fix the situation.

The board discussed various aspects of this and decided that we want to stay as friendly as possible towards landowners, avoid anything that might begin to cast a regulatory tone on the District, and focus on working with the willing (especially since we have more than enough workload at the moment), and leave resistant landowners alone.

7:55PM Stalley/Young project: Landowners present their project from last November OWEB cycle

- Talked about damage from last winter
- Photos of dyke erosion
- Emergency repair solution sought this summer

Board discussed the OWEB review comments on the North Bank Working Landscapes Project and their suggestion of re-applying for a TA grant in the fall cycle. Caley explained that this would involve at least one week straight of work or so of re-writing and editing of the original restoration application to fit the TA application. Chuck asked what exactly would be covered by TA grant funds.

- Chris Claire explained the survey/permitting/hydrological analysis and associated costs, including staff time working on these items.
- With either a May 1st or November 1st OWEB submission, implementation is likely summer instream 2019.

8:15PM Charlie moved to submit an application for OWEB Technical assistance in fall. Ernie seconded the motion. All approved, (no opposed) motion passed.

Board discussed the OWEB review comments on the Adams Creek Culvert Replacement Project and whether to resubmit for this (May 1st Deadline) Spring OWEB cycle

- A few changes/edits needed; additional info on pasture and grazing management requested
- Feasible to do by Monday (May 1st)
- No motion needed – keep going with app

WSARE/DEQ319 – status update

8:20PM Ed Hughes, Coos Watershed Association – Explanation of Coastal Coho Business Plan

- Lowlands – high potential for rearing juveniles
- Coos Watershed has a lot of same issues with tide gates and dykes as Coquille Watershed
- Pasture management becoming a key component to landowner/tidegate projects, to help secure and document benefits for landowners
- Coos WA would like to partner more with Coos SWCD; make use of District capacity for doing outreach; reaching out to Ag landowners
- What would be compensated/needed for cost share? (Meetings/staff time/mileage)
- How many meetings? (24-30 hours total)
 - Barbara Grant added that she had participated in the Coastal Coho Business Planning process with Curry SWCD– definitely ag water quality, and a great need for private landowners to be on board with these plans to represent agricultural interests
 - May 26th – deadline to submit business plan

- Letters of support appreciated
- It comes down to the Coos SWCD having a seat at the table vs. no seat at the table

9:25PM Mark moved to approve to put Caley on the committee. Ernie seconded the motion. All approved, motion passed.

9:27PM Barbara's report

- 22 new enrollments
- Will need a new MOU

9:33PM Meeting adjourned

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date