

WMSWCD Minutes 10/28/08

1. Meeting location and time

- a. Location: Montgomery Park
- b. Time: 6:00 pm

2. Introductions/Agenda Approval

- a. Those present:
 - i. Directors: Hartline, Lightcap, Peterson, Preeg-Riggsby (via phone), Sowder;
 - ii. Staff: Scott Gall (Conservation Technician); Dick Springer (District Manager); Erica Stokes (Executive Assistant);
 - iii. Agency: Steve Fedje (NRCS)
 - iv. Guests: Marshall Miller (write-in Associate Director Candidate); Mark Nebeker (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, ODFW); Rhoda Portis (Northwest Oregon RC&D Council, RC&D)

An executive session was held from 6:00 PM – 6:05 PM. The regular meeting began at 6:06 PM. The executive session was held to discuss the increase of District Manager Springer’s salary from \$65,000 year to \$70,000 per year. In the regular meeting, a motion was made by Director Preeg Riggsby to approve this salary increase. Director Sowder seconded the motion.

The motion was passed with 5 YES Votes, and 0 NAY Votes.

3. Minutes and Treasurers Report

- a. **Minutes and Treasurer’s Reports were approved for September 2008 with 5 YES votes and 0 NAYS.** Director Hartline made a motion to approve the minutes and reports. Director Sowder seconded the motion.

b. Treasurer’s Reports

- i. *WMSWCD –Unpaid Bills Detail-As of October 23,, 2008¹*
- ii. *WMSWCD-Balance Sheet- As of October 23, 2008²*
- iii. *WMSWCD-General Fund Budget vs. Actual-July 2008 through October 2008³*
- iv. *WMSWCD-Journal- October 2008⁴*

Erica Stokes noted that the deduction of \$8,334.00 for the KOIN advertising campaign has not yet been deducted from the Contingency Fund, but will be by the next meeting.

4. Directors and Staff Reports

¹ *WMSWCD –Unpaid Bills Detail-As of October 23, 2008*
² *WMSWCD-Balance Sheet- As of October 23, 2008*
³ *WMSWCD-General Fund Budget vs. Actual-July 2008- October 2008*
⁴ *WMSWCD-Journal October 2008*

- a. **Staff Reports:** Dick Springer submitted a written Manager’s Report⁵. Staff members Kammy Kern-Korot⁶, Mary Logalbo⁷, Scott Gall⁸, and Steve Fedje⁹, NRCS District Conservationist, also submitted reports. Manager Springer highlighted the progress made at the Annual Board and Staff Retreat (October 25, 2008) and assured the board that strategic planning follow up will happen. He also gave thanks to the staff for getting the Oregon Department of Agriculture quarterly grant report in early. ODA praised the District’s early submission. Lastly, Manager Springer encouraged the board and staff to use the Oregon Association of Conservation District (OACD) convention as an opportunity to network with other districts, to tell WMSWCD’s story, and to cover all educational offerings that will occur.

Scott Gall defined “HUA” from his monthly report as “Heavy Use Area”.

Director Preeg-Riggsby noted that Tryon Creek Watershed Council would like to partner with the District by having a District staff person present at the Council’s quarterly workshops. Such an arrangement would permit District staff to use their time more efficiently i.e. reaching multiple landowners at once rather than trying to reach them all one visit at a time. This suggestion came as a follow up answer to District Staff Mary Logalbo’s question of how to use her time most effectively in order to achieve the goals established by the board of directors.

Director Lightcap noted that he will be working with the board chair of East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) to see if partnership opportunities exist between the two Districts. Also, Director Lightcap plans to ask EMSWCD to contribute to the Sturgeon Lake project (discussed below) as Sturgeon Lake is an issue of regional importance despite its location within the WMSWCD’s boundaries.

5. Discussion:

- a. **Sturgeon Lake Project:** Rhoda Portis noted that the members of the Sturgeon Lake Management Group have signed a *Declaration of Cooperation*¹⁰. Group members include: WMSWCD, ODFW, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Ducks Unlimited, and Multnomah County Community Services. Non-signing, but supporting federal groups and agencies include: the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, RC&D, National Marine Fisheries, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Services.

Mark Nebeker summarized the Grant application (entitled *OWEB 2008 Technical assistance Grant Application: Sturgeon Lake Restoration Action Plan Development*) filed with OWEB by the

⁵ Director’s Report to WMSWCD Board
⁶ Kammy Kern-Korot’s Staff Report for Board
⁷ Mary Logalbo’s Staff Report for Board
⁸ Scott Gall’s Staff Report for Board
⁹ NRCS Report for Board
¹⁰ Declaration of Cooperation

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Sturgeon Lake Management Group as a necessary first step to re-initiate the Sturgeon Lake project. He provided background about the history of the Sturgeon Lake Project in response to Director Sowder's question about the purpose of the grant application. Mark Nebeker explained that the previous Sturgeon Lake Project had opened up Dairy Creek as a channel between the Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake that would allow sufficient water to enter Sturgeon Lake during periods of high water to initiate the flushing of sediment from the lake. This was deemed to be a high priority to forestall the transformation of Sturgeon Lake into a wetlands/ marsh. He added that Sturgeon Lake was one of the most significant features in reference to fish habitat and refugia for juvenile salmon on the lower Columbia River. However, the extensive flooding that occurred in 1996 caused significant damage to the Dairy Creek culverts under Reeder Road, and later significant shoaling at the entrance of Dairy Creek at the Columbia river (perhaps exacerbated or caused by the Army Corp installed "pile dike") greatly restricted the flow of water into Dairy Creek; thus compromising the functioning of Dairy Creek and limiting the flushing of Surgeon Lake. Mr. Nebeker then discussed the grant written by Curt Myklund of Ducks Unlimited, Scott Gall, and Mark. The grant, asked OWEB for a \$50,000 contribution to the total of \$115,000 budgeted for the for the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Plan Development project. The grant request indicates that additional funding will come from \$25,000 from WMSWCD, \$5,000 from ODFW to cover Mark's time, and \$35,000 from Ducks Unlimited. The grant will pay for the cost of a formal hydrology study of Sturgeon Lake. Mark Nebeker noted that the actual cost of the project of restoring sufficient water flow through Sturgeon Lake to counteract the progressive siltation will be a multi-million dollar project and will require a number of grants to cover its cost. The study will come first. Mark over-estimated the amount of hours required to the job to increase the dollar amount received to be certain that the best and most current, and well informed, engineers can be hired to do the study and to compensate for the increase in costs that may occur between now and project initiation.

Director Lightcap will ask EMSWCD to contribute to this project of regional importance too. He may also ask WMSWCD to contribute an additional \$10,000 to the project so that WMSWCD's contribution is equal to that of Ducks Unlimited if this will encourage OWEB to award the grant. Mr. Nebeker plans to attend the OWEB meetings for this grant cycle and Director Lightcap asked to attend as well and Director Lightcap said he would mention that if needed. Director Lightcap also noted that the budget committee can approve a one time increase in the percentage rate of taxes assessed to fund a specific project, but he will only mention that to them if needed in 2010. Mr. Nebeker stated that considerable political support will be necessary for the successful completion of the project once the study is completed.

District Manager Springer asked Mr. Nebeker to inform the board about the Sauvie Island Management Plan that ODFW will be updating. Mr. Nebeker said that he is redoing the plan that was last edited in 1993. The plan will be presented to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in March of 2009. Between now and then, Mark will be asking for input from agencies like WMSWCD to help make the plan as comprehensive as possible. In the past, the plan was highly contested. In order to avoid that, Mr. Nebeker has arranged for 4 months of public comment with

5-6 professionally facilitated meetings where ODFW can hear from all parties, and then construct a plan that is thorough and inclusive.

Ms. Portis offered her thanks to the WMSWCD staff and board for sponsoring and assisting with the Pacific Rim's RC&D Annual Conference. She also announced that she will be retiring at the end of this year.

- b. Vice Chair Selection:** Director Lightcap made a motion to appoint Director Hartline as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. Director Sowder seconded the motion.

The motion was passed with 5 YES Votes, and 0 NAY Votes.

Awards: Director Lightcap reminded the board that it is three weeks until the District's annual meeting will take place (November 17, 2008). With that in mind, he noted that if the District is going to give out awards then a decision needs to be made very soon so that the awards/recipients can be made/notified. To date, only Steve Fedje has suggested a recipient- Brian Parson as "Large Cooperator of the Year". Director Hartline noted that the District does not have to give out awards every year if those nominating are unable to think of appropriate candidates. Kammy Kern-Korot, District staff, will be asked to offer her opinion on recipients as she works so closely with landowners, but no decision was made at the meeting about whether awards would be distributed this year.

- c. OACD Conference:** Erica Stokes told the board to review the agenda¹¹ for the Board of Districts annual meeting at the OACD Conference.
- d. Joint Fire Letter/Landslide Summit:** Steve Fedje asked if the District would support the idea of a Landslide Summit. Dick said the cost will not be significant, and that Scott Gall will put together some information on the summit in his work plan. Also, the District will be looking at its wildfire response preparedness i.e. how it communicates with landowners in the District. The *Improving Communications about Wildland Fire Activities*¹² letter was shown to the board. This letter is signed by a number of state agencies including NRCS. The landslide summit should help address this concern.

Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn.

The next meeting will occur at 7:00 PM on November 17, 2008 at the Montgomery Park building. This will be the District's annual meeting. An additional business meeting will occur as a component of the annual meeting if needed.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Lightcap at 8:10 PM

¹¹ OACD Board of Districts Annual Meeting Agenda

¹² *Improving Communications about Wildland Fire Activities Letter*

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