



## 1. Meeting location and time

- a. Location: Brian Lightcap's House
- b. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

## 2. Introductions/Agenda Approval

- a. Those present:
  - i. Directors: Lightcap, Miller, Patte, Preeg Riggsby, Peterson, and Sowder
  - ii. Staff: Dick Springer (District Manager); Erica Stokes (Executive Assistant);

## 3. Minutes and Treasurers Report

- i. **Minutes and Treasurer's Report were not presented at this short board meeting. November's minutes and reports will be reviewed at the January board meeting.**

## 4. Directors and Staff Reports

- b. **Director's Report:** Director Preeg Riggsby presented the *WMSWCD: Partner Funding Program*<sup>1</sup> to the board. In addition to what is listed on the proposal, Director Preeg Riggsby noted that OWEB is no longer recognizing new watershed councils so the partner groups without this designation are not able to access Council Support funds from OWEB.

Director Patte asked how the District will decide which groups are funded i.e. what are the criteria for determining who gets what. Director Preeg Riggsby noted that the District should fund groups that have similar missions to the District, that are doing on the ground restoration work, and that are doing that work effectively. She suggested that perhaps the District should chose 3 groups to fund this year and have a cap on how much funding is allocated to partner groups within each fiscal year. She would recuse herself from the vote if Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC) was one of the partner groups to be considered for funding as she is a member of the Council. Director Lightcap noted that he would like to get Manager Springer's input on the proposal and what groups will be considered. Director Miller suggested that the board conduct a needs assessment of partner groups to be considered. Director Preeg Riggsby commented that she did not believe there would be too many groups on the list ultimately.

Director Peterson wanted to know who would be and is giving the District money. Director Preeg Riggsby noted that the District receives money from a tax base, ODA, OWEB and other project specific funding. The partner groups the District is considering funding e.g. TCWC do not have tax bases and only receive funding for projects i.e. they receive no funds for capacity building, staff, and the things required to keep the doors open. Director Preeg Riggsby also noted that she would like the District to consider funding some of these groups this fiscal year using contingency funds. Director Miller suggested that the board create a list of the groups to possibly fund and invite them to come and speak to the board so that

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<sup>1</sup> *WMSWCD: Partner Funding Program*

the board can determine who should receive funding. Director Lightcap noted that it would be good to hear from groups about their missions and how those align with the District's mission.

Director Patte wondered about what kinds of groups would be funded: conservancies, watershed councils, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, etc.? Director Preeg Riggsby said that the board should prioritize what groups are funded based on their on the ground conservation work. Director Sowder noted that the Oregon Small Woodlands Association does not do on the ground restoration work. Director Lightcap also noted that by funding these types of groups the District's volunteer base would grow which is positive. Director Patte said that the District should be sure to tie in communications benefits for itself in the agreements it makes with partner groups e.g. the District should have access to the group's email list to send out newsletters, etc. He also wanted the staff to provide input on what groups should be considered for funding.

Director Preeg Riggsby noted that these groups do receive project-specific funding from the District through FISH grants, but the FISH Grant Committee decided that these grant funds should not be used to support capacity building or organizational infrastructure. To be competitive with other SWCD's in the state, partner funding makes sense. Historically, SWCD's did fund watershed councils when there was a larger pool of ODA monies given to SWCD's for this type of oversight.

Director Lightcap said that it is important that the District look at the annual reports of these groups and their missions just as ODA reviews our materials as a component of the funding that we receive from them. However, Director Preeg Riggsby noted we should not create too much paperwork for either the District or the partner group. Director Miller suggested that the District consider cycling the groups that are funded i.e. if a group receives funding in 2010-11 then a different group should receive funding in 2011-12. Director Patte noted that perhaps the Sauvie Island Conservancy could be funded or other new organizations that are trying to get their footing. Director Peterson noted that she did not think that the Sauvie Island Conservancy needed additional funding.

Erica Stokes noted that there are 3 or 4 groups wishing to receive District funding that have already been invited to speak at the January board meeting. Director Preeg Riggsby highlighted the fact that these groups could be considered for partner funding or out of another pot of money in next year's budget. They should receive equal consideration for receipt of District funds. She also noted that she wants the board to consider gap funding for groups within the current fiscal year out of contingency.

**Director Lightcap made a motion to pursue gap funding this fiscal year and continue discussion of funding partner groups at future board meetings. Director Patte seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with 6 AYE votes.**

**Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn.**

The next meeting will occur at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the Montgomery Park building.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Lightcap at 6:01 PM.