



WMSWD Conservation District Board Meeting Minutes 2/5/15

1. Meeting location and time

Location: Conference Room 452 A & B, 2701 NW Vaughn St., Portland, OR 97210

Following a Board and Staff Meeting where staff 2015-16 Work Plan Highlights were reviewed, the Board Meeting was called to order at 6:27 PM.

2. Welcome/Introductions & Review/Revise Agenda

Board Members present: Directors Hartline, Lightcap, Looney, Miller, Peterson, Preeg Riggsby, Sowder; Staff: DM Springer, Martin; Guests: NRCS District Conservationist Kim Galland, Associate Director Candidates: Jan Hamer, Jane Weedall and Finlay Anderson.

Director Lightcap requested that two items be added to the agenda: Basin News and the Environmental Ministries Earth Care Summit; all approved the additions. (7-0). Chair Preeg Riggsby reminded Directors to request agenda items ahead of time, if possible.

3. Introduction of Guests

At Director Hartline's request, guests Hamer, Weedall and Anderson introduced themselves and briefly described their backgrounds and interest in serving as Associate Directors. Director Hartline noted that they had been invited to observe the meeting and confirm their interest in serving as Associate Directors. The candidates will be invited to attend the March Board Meeting; additionally, all three will serve on the Budget Committee, although Weedall noted she will miss the Committee's first meeting.

4. Approval of January Minutes

Director Miller moved to approve the January Board Meeting Minutes; Director Peterson seconded; all approved. (7-0)

5. Review Treasurer's Reports – December

Director Miller presented the Treasurer's report, noting that the District is in very good shape financially, in particular due to the receipt of property taxes. The District is underspent for the year at this point, but that will taper off as program activities are implemented.

6. NRCS Update: NRCS DC Galland, District Conservationist, briefly described the programs she is focusing on; both involve cost-share:

- a. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) – deals with resource concerns; funds special initiatives (i.e., High Tunnel, Organic certification); 3 year program.
- b. Conservation Stewardship Program – rewards agricultural markets for good performance; uses self-certification; 5 year program with option to renew.

Galland evaluates/assesses the needs in Multnomah County, then suggests projects to meet them. Some areas of interest to her include: Forestry (removing invasives and reforestation); Soil Health (possible partnership with Clackamas and Columbia SWCDs); Riparian/Habitat (Multnomah County only).

Easement funding for agricultural and wetland restoration will be available in the next five years; this will be a cost-share for land purchase that is then managed by a Land Trust; she noted the importance of identifying properties now for this program via a letter of interest.

NRCS is closing the office space Galland uses at WMSWCD; she will work out of her Oregon City office only. DM Springer noted that there is a meeting at the end of the month with NRCS to discuss this; Board members are invited to attend.

7. Staff Reports (January) and Sturgeon Lake Project Update:

DM Springer updated the Board on the Sturgeon Lake Project –

- a. Feasibility Study accepted as amended;
- b. Partner Agreement still to be signed;
- c. Implementation will start prior to signing Agreement;
- d. Properties for acquisition (via conservation easements or fee purchase) will be identified;
- e. Working with the Corps re: identifying specific District responsibilities;
- f. Environmental Attorney Fritz Paulus is advising (i.e., Dairy Creek issue);
- g. Property owners, allies, funders off-island and decision-makers will be updated;
- h. Options for reaching fund-raising target to be explored;
- i. Stakeholders meeting will be held in April or May;

Additionally, DM Springer was contacted by Gunderson's Environmental Affairs Manager, who would like to work with the District on conservation projects; this could be a good beginning to involve businesses.

DM Springer also was contacted by Bill Bradbury, a former legislative colleague, currently with The Climate Project and member of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, re: energy and conservation in the Northwest, as well as floodplain management; Springer believes this could result in more funding.

DS Springer will email Directors information on training available to the Board, and he encourages them to attend, as well as to request specific training they would like.

8. Update on Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan review/Sauvie Island & Multnomah Channel Land Use/Transportation Policy Study & Public Hearings:

DM Springer has attended two Land Use and Transportation Hearings and the kickoff meeting for the Comprehensive Plan. He noted meetings have been very well attended; a third meeting will be held in March. Protecting agriculture on Sauvie Island is a focus; there is a question re: the farmers' markets becoming too commercial, as well as safety issues raised by the large number of visitors to the island. Guest Hamer commented that the small farmers depend on their markets as part of their efforts to survive.

Directors Hartline and Lightcap asked for a discussion re: the lack of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff, who verify "wildlife conservation" tax deferrals for all counties in Oregon, on a future agenda; this makes certification of habitats very difficult. Director Sowder, who originally informed the board of this matter, corroborated the discussion. Director Hartline suggested the Board may want to write a letter to ODFW re: the staffing issue.

9. Additional Agenda Items:

Basin News: Director Lightcap will facilitate a Basin Meeting on March 18 at Clackamas SWCD at 6 PM. Attendees, who will include: East, West, Polk, Yamhill, Clackamas and Tualatin SWCDs, will share information on programs, with an eye to learning from each other, as well as possibly working together in some program areas, if feasible.

Environmental Ministries Earth Care Summit, University of Portland, January 24 and 25: Director Lightcap attended and reported on the conference, the focus of which was energy conservation; he noted that the presentations were very good, particularly one on food issues related to conservation.

10. Announcements/Reminders/Confirmation of March Meeting, Budget Meetings & Adjourn:

March Meeting dates: a) Board Meeting - Thursday, March 5th, 6 PM, WMSWCD Conference Room;
b) Budget Committee Meeting #1 - Thursday, March 19th, 6 PM, Conference Room 452 A & B.

Director Looney moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Preeg Riggsby seconded; all approved (7-0); meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

¹ WMSWCD 1/8/15 Board Meeting Minutes

² WMSWCD - Balance Sheet- As of December 30, 2014

³ WMSWCD - General Fund Budget vs. Actual Fiscal Year-to-date December 31, 2014

⁴ WMSWCD - Profit and Loss Budget Performance Fiscal Year-to-date as of December 31, 2014

⁵ Staff Reports