



West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting Minutes 7/12/2017

1. **Meeting Location and Time:**

Location: Director Hartline's Property on Sauvie Island

The meeting was called to order by Director Looney at 6:30 PM.

2. **Introductions and Agenda Approval:**

Board Members Present: Directors Hartline, Lightcap, Looney, Peterson, Sowder; Board members absent (excused): Preeg Riggsby, Miller; Associate Directors Present: Anderson, Hamer, Weedall; Wiley; District Manager (DM): Cathcart; NRCS Staff: Galland; Director Looney chaired the meeting due to Director Preeg Riggsby's absence.

Director Lightcap made a motion to approve the agenda and Director Sowder seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

3. **Minutes:** *WMSW Conservation District 6/14/2017 Board Meeting Minutes*ⁱ

Director Hartline made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Director Sowder seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0.

4. **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Update**

DM Cathcart reviewed the June 29th Monthly OACD Communication Call. Much of the call was spent reviewing the recruitment process for the Executive Director position, which became vacant when Jerry Nicolescu announced he was moving on from the organization. Jerry's last day was June 30th. Newly elected President Pat Fitzgerald (Yamhill SWCD) is serving as Interim Executive Director during the recruitment process. Pat is being supported in his role by Whitney Collins, District Manager for the Baker County Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Second Vice President, Brian Lightcap (West Multnomah SWCD) and Secretary Jan Lee (Clackamas SWCD) worked together to develop the position description for the Executive Director. The search is national and the closing date for applications is July 14th. A Search Committee consisting of the OACD Board of Directors and their corresponding District Managers will review the top 10 applications (as screened by Past President Mark Saelens and Whitney). Director Lightcap and DM Cathcart are on the Search Committee. The Search Committee will whittle down the number of applications to the top 3 candidates; upon which a Selection Committee will evaluate and conduct interviews. The goal is to select the desired candidate and have them hired by mid-August.

Director Lightcap has been working to ensure that there is balance in the Executive Director position. Previous emphasis for the position had been ensuring SWCDs have access to the Lottery Funds (i.e., from OWEB as distributed by ODA) and on training (CONNECT). Director Lightcap added emphasis to communication and coordination with SWCDs as a key aspect of the job. Communication and reinvigorating the Basin Teams is the focus of Director Lightcap joining the OACD Board as 2nd Vice President.

DM Cathcart reported that former Field Intern, Anna Freitas, as part of her graduate work at Oregon State University, is working with the OACD Strategic Planning Committee, (which is Chaired by 1st Vice President Nellie McAdams of East Multnomah SWCD), on the development of the OACD strategic plan.

5. Linnton Mill Restoration Site Mitigation Bank Update

Associate Director Anderson reported. The Linnton Mill site is being developed to sell National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) credits as part of the Portland Harbor Superfund clean-up effort. The plan is to restore the mill site to off-channel salmon habitat. West Multnomah SWCD Associate Director Finlay and Director Looney are on the review committee set up by the Oregon Department of State Lands and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. West Multnomah SWCD is taking the lead and is also representing East Multnomah SWCD. Current status of the project is finalizing the supporting design report, plans and specifications for the restoration work, developing performance standards and developing a monitoring and evaluation plan with respect to the standards. The project will be turned over to an entity responsibility for maintaining the project by following a stewardship plan for the site. There is a possible role for East Multnomah SWCD and West Multnomah SWCD to play in monitoring and evaluation as well as maintenance and stewardship of the project. The Linnton Mill Restoration Site is one of three proposed mitigation bank sites; the other two being the Portland General & Electric substation site along the Willamette River and the Alder Creek Lumber site on Sauvie Island. Tribes are very interested in these sites as in the end the federal government must also meet treaty trust responsibilities to the tribes. Director Looney has also been wearing her Linnton Neighborhood Association hat and there is some expressed concern from residents on keeping contaminated soils on site (behind berms) as opposed to removal. Associate Director Hamer asked about the elevation of the site and the feasibility of creating off-channel habitat for juvenile salmon. There are a couple of dynamics in this regard. The first is the goal to restore the site to benefit more than just juvenile salmon. It was clear after the site visit, the goal of the project would be to a multi-species benefit; for example, lamprey larvae would benefit during times of the year the site is not used by juvenile salmon. Ultimately, the goal is to develop the project to provide year-round habitat that will benefit a suite of important species. The project developer is open to this and game to give it a shot. In response to Associate Director Hamer's question about the high elevation and how the project will create a lot of off-channel habitat; the answer is lots and lots of excavation is being proposed. This will form the berms to hold the contaminated soil. In the end, this approach is still cheaper than hauling the contaminated soil off-site.

6. Directors' and Associate Directors' Check-in

- Associate Director Hamer – Shout out to Soil School. Associate Director Hamer also attended a wetland plant restoration training.
- Director Lightcap – Taught wetland science at Resources and People (RAP) Camp in southern Oregon. Work with a hydrologist from Bureau of Land Management. The teaching emphasized the difference between wetland soils and lake bottom sediments. Director Lightcap learned a new plant: buckbean. It is uncommon, needs clean water, and has medicinal value (helps control internal bleeding).
- Director Hartline – Passed around a specimen of an invasive orchid reported on Sauvie Island.

7. **District Manager's Update**

DM Cathcart mentioned the District's Summer E-Newsletter will be coming out this week and once again is chocked full of timely information. DM Cathcart gave an update on the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project. Transfer of the project to the Bonneville Power Administration through its contractor Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force (CREST) is in full swing. The project design team – which Scott Gall is a member – is meeting regularly and released 50% design specifications for the bridge and channel work. The corresponding estimated cost is coming in a \$3 million, about half of the previously estimated cost. Permits for the project are being actively pursued and negotiations with the affected landowners for the Temporary Construction and Work Area and Permanent Conservation easements continues. DM Cathcart does not see any unresolvable barriers to coming to terms with landowners on the easements. DM Cathcart also reported that he and Renee Myers, (Executive Director, Forest Park Conservancy), had a very successful meeting with Jim Peña (Regional Forester, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region) and Ron Alvarado (State Conservationist, Oregon, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)) about a Joint Chiefs funding proposal for the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative. Joint Chiefs funding comes through the national offices of the Forest Service and NRCS and looks at funding landscape restoration projects. Both Jim and Ron felt that the work being done by the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative partners (West Multnomah SWCD, Forest Park Conservancy, Metro Parks and Nature, Portland Parks and Recreation, etc.) exemplifies the type of project the Joint Chiefs funding wants to support and encouraged Renee and DM Cathcart to follow-up with their staff to prepare a proposal for submittal in the fall. The scale of funding is \$3 to \$4 million over a 3 to 5 year period.

8. **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Update**

District Conservationist Galland reported that NRCS held its orientation for new employees (hired over the previous 2 years) on June 22nd. The orientation had a classroom and field component. The field component toured NRCS projects in East Multnomah SWCD (berry farm), Clackamas SWCD (livestock), and Tualatin SWCD (forestry and water quality). Kim hopes to showcase West Multnomah SWCD as part of the next scheduled new employee orientation.

Regarding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, all funding pool sign-ups are due by August 4th. West Multnomah SWCD has spent its allotted \$75,000 in the forestry funding pool and has another \$10,000 in the que that will be funded with allocations not to be used elsewhere. No staffing updates except Dusty Jager (Soil Conservationist) will be back from his Washington County assignment in the fall.

9. **Board Social**

Director Hartline hosted a Board dinner social.

10. **Announcements/Reminders/Confirmation of next Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will be held on September 13th, 2017 at 6:00 PM. The August meeting will be cancelled for summer break. Director Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM; Director Sowder seconded; all approved (5-0).

ⁱ WMSWCD 6/14/17 Board Meeting Minutes

ⁱⁱ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report

ⁱⁱⁱ Staff Reports