



WEST MULTNOMAH
Soil & Water Conservation District

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting Minutes 10/12/2016

The Annual Meeting was held at the Sauvie Island Grange from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Board Members Present: Directors Preeg Riggsby, Lightcap, Looney, Miller, Peterson, Hartline; Board members absent (excused): Hartline; Associate Directors Present: Weedall, Wiley; District Manager (DM): Cathcart; Staff: Ahr, Delepine, DeMarco, Gall, Kern-Korot, Levis, Lindberg, Logalbo, Razalenti, Risetto, Taylor; NRCS Staff: Galland; Guests: Approximately 25 guests

DM Cathcart gave introductions to West Multnomah SWCD District staff, Randy Bergman from Columbia SWCD, and Jay Udelhoven from East Multnomah SWCD. He presented the District's 2016-17 Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ended June 30, 2017. Chair Preeg Riggsby introduced the West Multnomah SWCD Directors and Associate Directors.

District staff and board recognized three groups for outstanding contributions in conservation. Staff member Delepine presented Rebecca and Brewster Crosby with the District's award for Urban Cooperator of the Year. Nine years ago, they saved the largest parcel of land adjacent to Tryon Creek State Park from being developed into a subdivision. Rebecca is credited with finding and removing one of the first pokeweed infestations discovered in Tryon Creek.

Staff member Ahr presented the Rural Cooperator of the Year award to Eric Miller and Mary Dower, who helped District staff collect water quality samples of McCarthy Creek from their property. Eric played a key role in encouraging neighbors to participate in the 2013 canopy weed removal program, which successfully removed ivy growing up trees in about 15 acres of forest owned by multiple residents. In 2016, the District worked with Eric and Mary on a Forest Stewardship Plan that resulted in a forest thinning project. In a show of their commitment to forest conservation, Eric and Mary have added acreage in an effort to protect valuable habitat.

Staff member Razalenti presented the District's Government Partner of the Year award for Koffi Dessou and Judith Mowery of the Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights. Dante James from their office, accepted the award on their behalf. Koffi and Judith were instrumental in helping the District build an organizational foundation grounded in the recognition and understanding of systemic racism and its impact on the District's work through a thoughtfully planned and delivered Equity 101 training to staff and board, provided at no cost to the District.

Staff member Logalbo presented southwest Portland resident Andrea Wall with the District's Volunteer of the Year award for her work over the past ten years in an undeveloped trail near her home in the Hillsdale neighborhood. Andrea began working with the District to create a Conservation Plan for this common space and the private properties around it. Using the plan as a guide, Andrea began raising funds, and organized a number of work parties, mobilizing some 85 volunteers to remove blackberry and other invasive species and plant nearly 320 native species. The District provided funding and technical assistance for an engineering assessment, resulting in the creation of a bioswale that prevented flooding in downhill homes and improved water quality in the Fanno Creek Watershed.

Staff member Logalbo presented the District's Green Award to current board member Susan Weedall in recognition of her many years of hard work protecting the environment and making strides towards equity and inclusion within West Multnomah SWCD's boundaries and beyond.

The Annual meeting adjourned for the October Board meeting.