



West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting Minutes 8/18/2020

### **1. Meeting Location and Time:**

Location: Held via Conference Call (1-800-309-2350). The meeting was called to order by Director Preeg Riggsby at 6:04 PM.

### **2. Introductions and Agenda Approval**

Directors Present: Hartline, Lightcap, Looney, Miller, Peterson, Preeg Riggsby, Sowder; Associate Director Present: (none); Interim Co-District Managers (DM): Levis and Logalbo; Staff: Razalenti; NRCS Staff: Galland;

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

### **3. Minutes:**

*WMSW Conservation District Board Meeting minutes<sup>i</sup> from 06/16/2020*

Director Looney made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from 6/16/20 as written, and Director Peterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 7-0.

### **4. Review of Treasurer's Reports**

Director Miller reviewed the financial reports and DM Levis reported that to ease cash flow concerns this fall, those partners that were able to wait for funding until December were asked to do so. Approximately 90% of property tax revenues are typically received in November and December.

The following reports were reviewed:

- a) *WMSWCD-Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020<sup>ii</sup>*
- b) *WMSWCD-General Fund Budget Only Budget Performance Full Year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020<sup>iii</sup>*
- c) *WMSWCD-Sturgeon Lake Fund Budget Performance Full Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020<sup>iv</sup>*
- d) *WMSWCD-Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2020<sup>v</sup>*
- e) *WMSWCD-General Fund Budget Only Budget Performance July 31, 2020<sup>vi</sup>*
- f) *WMSWCD-Sturgeon Lake Fund Budget Performance July 31, 2020<sup>vii</sup>*

### **5. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report**

NRCS staff Galland gave an update on some of the projects that NRCS is working on as well as some prospective projects. There are several projects on Sauvie Island that NRCS are working on, and they are working with District staff member Gall to ensure there isn't any unnecessary overlap. There are urban agricultural innovation grants that will be available soon, with a webinar taking place on August 27<sup>th</sup> to learn more. DM Logalbo will get this webinar information to the Board if they are interested in participating. DM Logalbo announced that the District was awarded a technical assistance grant of \$35,000 from National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). DM Logalbo also announced that

NRCS staff Galland will be joining the District's advisory committee for the conservation scope of the District's Long Range Business Plan (LRBP) update.

## **6. Public Comment Period**

No public comment.

## **7. Survey on Eligibility Criteria for SWCD Directors**

Director Preeg Riggsby reviewed the background information received by the District<sup>viii, ix</sup> regarding a survey on SWCD Director eligibility<sup>x</sup> that all SWCD Boards in the state of Oregon were asked to complete. Directors answered each question of the survey individually, and their tallied answers and summation of comments on the survey are attached.

Director Preeg Riggsby read aloud a draft letter to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC)<sup>xi</sup> that had just been completed earlier in the day, and therefore was not provided ahead of time in the Board meeting materials packet that was distributed on August 13th. This letter, drafted by East Multnomah SWCD with West Multnomah SWCD's input, was written to express deep concern over the nature of the survey process, to urge the reviewers to seek guidance and leadership from organizations led by people of color and to ensure that the opinions of the two boards is clearly understood: eligibility requirements of land ownership and management for zoned director positions should be removed. A bullet point toward the end of the draft letter regarding the Associate Director pathway to becoming a Director was noted as needing clarification that though it is valuable, that pathway holds similar flaws as the Director requirements.

Director Hartline moved to include West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors' support to the draft letter, with a note to provide clarification on the piece regarding Associate Directors prior to finalizing the letter. Director Looney seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-3 (the following Directors voted 'Yes': Directors Hartline, Looney, Miller, Preeg Riggsby; the following Directors voted 'No': Directors Lightcap, Peterson, Sowder).

## **8. Long Range Business Plan (LRBP) Update & Discussion**

This item was tabled due to lack of time.

## **9. District Manager Check-in**

DM Levis and DM Logalbo deferred until next month due to lack of time. Director Preeg Riggsby announced that the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project hit another milestone by completing the acquisition of the last two private property permanent easements.

## **10. Directors' and Associate Directors' Check-In**

Director Preeg Riggsby announced that Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) now have a public comment period, so staff or board members are welcome to join as members of the public. There were no other check-ins due to lack of time.

## 11. Announcements/Reminders/Confirmation of next Meeting:

Director Preeg Riggsby noted the following upcoming meetings.

- Conservation Scope meeting – Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 11am
- Organizational Health mtg. – Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am -11:30am
- Financial Sustainability mtg. – Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am-11am
- Next DEI Committee meeting – September 23, 2020
- Next Board Meeting – September 15, 2020
- LRBP Board Retreat #1: Oct.7<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-8:00pm
- LRBP Board Retreat #2: Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- OACD Annual Meeting – November 10, 2020 virtually

Director Preeg Riggsby reminded everyone of the following:

- Director Election on November 3, 2020: **Zone 1, 4 years; Zone 2, 4 years; Zone 3, 4 years; At Large 1, 4 years;** Each candidate must file a “Declaration of Candidacy” and a “Petition for Nomination Signature Sheet” with the ODA by 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 2020.

The Board adjourned at 8:37pm.

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<sup>i</sup>WMSWCD 6/16/2020 Board Meeting Minutes

<sup>ii</sup>WMSWCD-Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020

<sup>iii</sup> WMSWCD-General Fund Budget Only Budget Performance Full Year July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020

<sup>iv</sup>WMSWCD-Sturgeon Lake Fund Budget Performance Full Year July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020

<sup>v</sup>WMSWCD-Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2020

<sup>vi</sup>WMSWCD-General Fund Budget Only Budget Performance July 31, 2020

<sup>vii</sup>WMSWCD-Sturgeon Lake Fund Budget Performance July 31, 2020

<sup>viii</sup>Email from Jan Lee of OACD dated June 8, 2020

<sup>ix</sup>Board Eligibility White Paper

<sup>x</sup>SWCD Director Eligibility Survey June 2020

<sup>xi</sup>Draft letter to Oregon Department of Agriculture and Soil and Water Conservation Commission

<sup>xii</sup>Long Range Business Plan report and attachments

<sup>xiii</sup> Staff Reports