



West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) Board Meeting Minutes 02/21/2023

1. Meeting Location and Time: Location: Held via Zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chair Preeg Riggsby at 6:09 PM. Start time was slightly delayed due to Zoom connection issues.

2. Introductions and Agenda Approval.

Directors Present: Hartline, Lightcap, Looney, Peterson, Preeg Riggsby, Sowder; Directors Absent: Miller; Associate Director(s) Present: Hamer, Wiley; Staff Present: District Manager (DM) Barlow, Gall, Magyar, Razalenti; NRCS Staff: Galland; Guests: Nellie McAdams and Ivor Kincaide, Oregon Agricultural Trust.

The agenda items all remained but the order was changed to the order below; approved by acclamation.

3. Oregon Agricultural Trust, OAT – Partnership Options for protecting agricultural and ranch land in the District, focused on Sauvie Island.

Nellie McAdams gave a background of farm succession planning challenges and how conservation easements can help with this. Areas in which SWCDs can partner with OAT are highlighted in the handout provided by OATⁱ. Nellie sought the Board's approval for staff to work with OAT on possible partnerships; there are several ways to partner with OAT. The Board discussed this and they are in support. DM Barlow will follow up with Nellie and relevant District staff.

4. Staff Presentation – Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project

Staff member Gall reviewed the pre-project conditions of Sturgeon Lake, which initially had no flow into the Columbia River due to debris and failing culverts. Restoration actions were highlighted, and photos of the construction were presented. Ongoing monitoring highlights were shared including water surface elevation, channel cross sections, aerial imagery of Sturgeon Lake, vegetation surveys, and PIT tag array. Beaver activity in the area was also noted as being helpful for fish habitat. 2022 fish data was also shared.

Original project goals:

- Provide new, direct fish access between the main stem Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake for the primary benefit of Chinook, Coho, and steelhead.
- Improve daily tidal amplitude within the lake, thereby improving habitat complexity, supporting native plant communities and open water habitats for waterfowl.
- Maximize direct hydrologic exchange with the Columbia River during flood events to restore the natural process and stop sedimentation.

Monitoring goals:

- Short-term Monitoring – 5-year post-construction monitoring for project trajectory and success. This includes planting survival rates, bank stability inspections, sedimentation within Dairy Creek, and water level monitoring.
- Long-term Monitoring – Tracking and measuring changes to the system including alterations to native and invasive wetland plant communities, fish use of both the lake and Dairy Creek, water

quality monitoring, water level monitoring, sedimentation rates in Dairy Creek and alterations to the lakebed. This information would also be used to inform long-term maintenance needs.

5. Proposal to Reassess Ivy Removal Strategy

Director Lightcap shared that he has some thoughts that he will put in writing about ivy removal and how the Board members could be more helpful in this regard. Director Lightcap would like ivy removal to be more of an on the ground effort for the District. He would like an update from staff on what our vision is for our ivy removal program within the next ten years. DM Barlow will follow up with appropriate staff members on this request.

6. Election of Officers

Director Preeg Riggsby announced that the current slate of officers is willing to continue in their roles, especially during this staffing transition period for the District.

Director Lightcap made a motion to approve keeping the existing slate of officers, and Director Hartline seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 6-0.

The current slate of officers is as follows:

Terri Preeg Riggsby – Chair

George Sowder – Vice Chair

Weston Miller – Treasurer

Shawn Looney - Secretary

7. Minutes

Board members reviewed the West Multnomah SWCD Board Meeting minutes from 1/17/2023.ⁱⁱ

Director Hartline made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes as written, and Director Looney seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 5-0 (Director Lightcap left the meeting before this agenda item began).

8. Review of Treasurer's Reports

DM Barlow noted that the District is in a good financial position, and reported that the District received funding from grant resources in January. Our expenses have been typical for this time of year. The conservation programs are underspent which is typical for this type of year. With the field season ramping up, the Board will begin to see more conservation spending.

The following reports were reviewed:

a) WMSWCD-Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2023ⁱⁱⁱ

b) WMSWCD-Budget Performance Report for January 31, 2023^{iv}

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Update

NRCS Staff member Galland shared that the focus for the upcoming local workgroup meeting will be soil health. NRCS is also in the process of hiring more staff.

10. Public Comment

No public comment.

11. Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) – Model Advocacy Policy

Director Preeg Riggsby introduced that OACD has developed a model advocacy template that any Districts can use. Much of the content that is in the policy is already in practice, but it would be best practice to put it in a formal policy for the District. The draft policy from OACD was used for what was presented to the board in their packet and updated to have our District's name included.

Director Looney made a motion to adopt Resolution no. 2023-02-21 Adopting Revised Advocacy Policy^v, and Director Sowder seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

12. Personnel Committee report

DM Barlow announced that the District has hired a new Budget and Fiscal Manager, Lorrie Conway, and she will be starting April 3rd due to prior commitments. Lorrie will be half time the first couple of weeks and ramping up to full time. Staff member Levis will be staying with the District to help onboard Lorrie. Lorrie will also be attending our March All Staff meeting to meet the staff. She attended the Department of Revenue's budget law training ahead of coming onboard because it's only once per year. DM Barlow, staff members Magyar and Levis, and Director Miller all served on the team that hired Lorrie.

13. Appoint Budget Officer / Acceptance of Budget Calendar^{vi}

Director Looney made a motion to appoint DM Barlow as Budget Officer, and Director Hartline seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Directors discussed and accepted the Budget Calendar for fiscal year 2023.

14. Discuss Board Stance on Legislative Issues

Director Preeg Riggsby will send the Board the most recent email from OACD that lists the log of the proposed House and Senate bills and where OACD places them in terms of priority.

15. District Manager Check-in

As meeting time was running out, DM Barlow noted that her staff report contains plenty of information for the Board's review outside of the meeting and the big highlight is the new hire of Lorrie Conway.

16. Director and Associate Director Check-ins:

Director Preeg Riggsby announced that the March Board meeting will take place in-person. Staff member Razalenti urged those that can come in person should try to do so as the audio is difficult to make clear in hybrid meetings. Location of the meeting is to be determined, and staff member Razalenti has several potential spaces in the works. If Board members have a location within the District in mind for this meeting, they should reach out to staff member Razalenti directly.

17. Announcements/Reminders/Upcoming Meetings:

Director Preeg Riggsby announced the following upcoming meetings/events:

- Next Board Meeting March 21, 2023, in-person. Location to be determined.

Director Preeg Riggsby declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

ⁱPotential Partnership Roles for Oregon Agricultural Trust and Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts

ⁱⁱWMSWCD Board meeting minutes January 17, 2023

ⁱⁱⁱWMSWCD-Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2023

^{iv}WMSWCD-Budget Performance Report of January 31, 2023

^vResolution no. 2023-02-21 Adopting Revised Advocacy Policy

^{vi}WMSWCD Appointment of Budget Officer and Acceptance of Budget Calendar

^{vii}Staff Reports