



West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) Board Meeting Minutes 11/28/2023

1. Meeting Location and Time:

Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory – 715 S Bancroft St, and remote via Zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order by Director Preeg Riggsby at 7:08 PM.

2. Introductions and Agenda Approval.

Directors Present: Hartline, Looney, Miller, Preeg Riggsby, Lightcap, Sowder, Peterson (late); Associate Directors: Wiley; Directors Absent: None; Staff Present: District Manager (DM) Barlow, Conway, Mauser; NRCS Staff: Kim Galland;

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

3. Minutes

Board members reviewed the WMSWCD Board Meeting minutes from 10/21/2023ⁱ.

Director Looney made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes as written, and Director Lightcap seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 6-0 (Director Peterson joined the meeting late and was not part of this vote).

4. Review of Treasurer's Reports

Director Miller reported on the October Treasurer's activities. The District used substantial funds from the LGIP account in the first four months of FY '23-'24. Income is expected to rise in November due to incoming county turnover of tax receipts for the current year. Currently, the cash on hand balance is about \$927,000. The District's income dollars received are over budget for this period by \$16,679. Although the district brought in more money than expected for this time of year, the District relies on the tax receipts that we should begin to receive next month to carry the expenses for the remainder of the year. Total spending in conservation programs for the fiscal year is \$12,988 (underspent by \$39,012 actual vs. budget), education and partner funding (underspent by \$4,000 actual vs. budget), and outreach and communications (underspent by \$1,544 actual vs. budget). Total supplies and services are also underspent by \$55,000 actual vs. budget. Overall, the District is financially ahead by \$77,666 compared to the projected budget. For the upcoming budget cycle, there's a plan to minimize year-end surplus by aligning conservation spending more closely with actual needs. In response to Director Lightcap's query, Director Miller explained that any year-end surplus is rolled over into the next year's expenses.

The following reports were reviewed:

- a) WMSWCD-Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2023ⁱⁱ
- b) WMSWCD-Budget Performance Report for October 31, 2023ⁱⁱⁱ

5. Public Comments

No Public Comments.

6. District Work Highlights

DM Barlow announced the completion of a 50-year Easement with Oregon Division of State Lands (DSL) for long-term maintenance over the submerged and submersible land for a defined reach of the Dairy Creek as a final element of the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project. The 20-minute public hearing prior to board acceptance of this easement will occur at the beginning of the January 2024 Board Meeting. Director Preeg Riggsby inquired about public interest, with DM Barlow noting upcoming outreach efforts via the required notification letter to relevant government agencies and landowners. Director Lightcap asked to confirm that Mark Nebeker, the ODFW Sauvie Island Wildlife Refuge manager, would receive a notification letter.

DM Barlow introduced Staff Greene as the new Outreach & Communications Coordinator, noting that the District is now fully staffed for the first time in over a year.

DM Barlow asked the Board to review Staff Reports for more comprehensive details and information.

7. Director and Associate Director Check-ins:

Director Preeg Riggsby discussed her DEI efforts with HAKI Community Organization, a community resource organization for African immigrants in the Portland metro area, highlighting a multicultural fair in the district that attracted dozens of vendors and over 800 attendees. Plans are underway to expand vendor space and include environmental partners like WMSWCD in future events, supported by additional funding from Metro regional government.

Regarding the Tryon Creek Crossing, Director Preeg Riggsby updated that the Army Corps of Engineers leads the Highway 43 Culvert project, with design work by the City of Portland. The project, involving multiple stakeholders including government, private, and railroad entities, is federally funded and advocated for by the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.

Director Lightcap mentioned conducting a survey on Dairy Creek (Sauvie Island) with Paul Fishman.

8. NRCS Update

NRCS Staff Galland updated on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, noting that over 60 applications have been received, including 3 or 4 from Sauvie Island and a Forestry project. Funding is expected post-March 29, 2024, with application ranking and assessment continuing through February. A workgroup meeting is scheduled for February, and further details will be shared at the February Board Meeting.

9. Announcements/Reminders/Upcoming Meetings:

Next Board Meeting will be on December 19, 2023 via Zoom at 6pm.

Director Preeg Riggsby declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

ⁱ *WMSWCD Board meeting minutes October 21, 2023*

ⁱⁱ *WMSWCD Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2023*

ⁱⁱⁱ *WMSWCD Budget Performance Sheet as of October 31, 2023*

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