



West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) Board Meeting Minutes 04/30/2024

1. Meeting Location and Time: Location: via Zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chair Preeg Riggsby at 7:34 PM.

2. Introductions and Agenda Approval:

Directors Present: Hartline, Lightcap, Looney, Miller, Peterson, Preeg Riggsby, Sowder; Staff Present: District Manager (DM) Barlow, Conway, Mauser; Budget Committee members Guterrez, Oliver, Wiebe; Rob Millis, Jordan Guterrez

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

3. Minutes:

Board members reviewed the West Multnomah SWCD Board Meeting minutes from 3/19/2024.ⁱ

Director Lightcap made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes as written, and Director Hartline seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 7-0.

4. Review of Treasurer's Reports:

Director Miller presented the Financial Reportⁱⁱ, highlighting the organization's strong financial position with a current revenue surplus of \$192,832 over the budgeted surplus, primarily from tax revenue. He reported a robust savings account balance of \$1,848,000 that will carry the expenses of the organization through June 30th fiscal year end and into the coming fiscal year. He noted a beneficial 5.25% interest rate on the savings account, contributing additional income and reinforcing financial health. The report concluded by affirming that expenditures are on track and emphasized the organization's sound fiscal management.

The following reports were reviewed:

- a) WMSWCD Treasurers Report as of March 31, 2024ⁱⁱ

5. Public Comment:

No public comment.

6. WMSWCD submit response letter to PGE proposal to clear-cut 3 acres of healthy forest in Forest Park for a new power transmission line:

Director Preeg Riggsby initiated discussion on Portland General Electric's (PGE) forthcoming land use application to clear approximately three acres in Forest Park for additional power lines, a move that could significantly impact the local ecosystem, including the habitat of the northern red-legged frog in this area. DM Barlow briefed the Board on prior site visits and collaborations with Portland Parks, noting PGE's existing easement which may complicate opposition efforts. She indicated a 30-day public comment period would commence upon PGE's submission of the application to the Bureau of Development Services. Board members expressed a need for a thorough environmental impact assessment and alternatives analysis from PGE and emphasized the necessity of a robust response

strategy. Director Hartline suggested empowering Lynn and her team to draft a preliminary response ready for quick adjustment upon application submission. The Board agreed. The discussion also highlighted the importance of engaging with environmental experts and stakeholders such as the Forest Park Conservancy to strengthen their stance, with a consensus on the urgency of protecting Forest Park's ecosystem and preparing to mobilize quickly once the application is submitted.

7. District Manager Highlights:

DM Barlow provided updates on key organizational changes and projects. She announced the departure of the Urban Conservationist, who will be taking a new role as the Executive Director at the Clackamas River Basin Council after nearly 16 years with the District. DM Barlow outlined the recruitment process to fill this vital position, including updating the job description and implementing strategic outreach to ensure a thorough search.

She also reported progress on the Sturgeon Lake Restoration project which is the fully signed easement for conservation purposes with the Division of State Lands; this has been recorded with Multnomah County. The Sturgeon Lake and Dairy Creek restoration interpretive signage project is in progress with Dr. David Lewis of the Grand Ronde tribe and OSU who will develop a modern indigenous narrative for the interpretive sign.

8. Director and Associate Director Check-Ins:

No Check-Ins

Director Preeg Riggsby declared the meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

ⁱWMSWCD Board meeting minutes March 19, 2024

ⁱⁱWMSWCD-Financial Report as of March 31, 2024