

**WHEELER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

January 29, 2020

The board meeting was called to order by Chairman Holmes at 6:18pm by the clock in the Big Service Corral meeting room, located at 40280 Hwy 19, Fossil, Oregon.

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Associate Directors</u>	<u>Employees / Partners</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Jeremiah Holmes	Amy Derby	Brooke Moore, WSWCD	Kendall Derby
Wayne Lindquist	Rob Wade	Eric Nusbaum, ODA	
Kale Haberman		Debbi Bunch, MJDBCWC	
JimBob Collins		Damon Broman, NRCS	
Jason Davis		Cassandra Newton. WSWCD	
Rusty Rutherford			
David Hunt			

AGENCY REPORTS

OWEB: None

NRCS: Damon has been contacting landowners about the sign-ups for Ochoco funding and Kahler Basin funding, which was extending to a larger area touching all highways. There has been a lot of interest in the Kahler Basin area already. Butte Creek is shared between Gilliam and Wheeler and is in the second year of sign-ups. Have not heard much regarding sign-ups for CSP current or expiring contracts. A lot of attention is focused on the active CRP sign-up, which is the first big one they have had in many years in the Columbia Basin. Abby has been going out to meet with landowners to help them make educated bids. This will affect Wheeler County landowners in that the hope is the land will become grass available for grazing. CRP rules have changed to allow grazing as a management practice, so people do not have to take a reduction in pay to graze their CRP. In the past it was not allowed to cost-share on CRP grants; but that has changed for the last year of the CRP grant, if not renewing. Herb, Debbi, and Chase have put in an RCPP Application, which includes Butte Creek. Looking at getting approximately \$4M for the Butte Creek, 30 Mile, and on down the John Day River areas – will find out in March. The kiosk design for The Painted Hills visitor center is finalized and sent to the printer, which highlights the accomplishments of local ranchers in the Lower John Day watershed in partnership with the NRCS, National Parks Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and Wheeler SWCD.

Director Lindquist asked if NRCS has any water efficiency grants for irrigation sprinkler repairs, gasket replacements, etc. Damon advised that the funds in RCPP funding pool are mostly used, but advised that CO-OPs sometimes will provided funding and EPA has had programs in the past.

Director Collins asked if there was a ranking element on the CSP for improving irrigation systems. Damon stated the main thing NRCS works on is the Irrigation Water Management (IWM) that is designed for timing, duration, using sensors, etc.

Local Land Owner Meeting will be on **February 19, 2020** at 1:00pm in the conference room at the Service Center in Condon.

OSU Extension: Amy stated there was nothing to report.

Kendall Derby: Kendall (owner of In the Sticks juniper sawmill and president of the Mid John Day Bridge Creek Watershed Council) reported he missed the last two meetings, but the procedural issues were corrected.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Watershed Council: Debbi reported that the LJDWG approved the step three report and working on strategies, which is step four. A brief update will be provided at the February LLO Meeting. The full group will meet again on **February 24, 2020** at 10:00am in Condon for the place base planning. The **JDP** meeting is **February 25, 2020** at 10:00am in Condon. The two fall applications submitted to OWEB were recommended for funding – one is a monitoring application and one is a restoration application. The restoration application was ranked 8/9, so unsure if it will hit the funding availability level, but the monitoring application was ranked 1/3. Small grants are able to be submitted and two have been sent in. The small grant funds go quickly, so get your ideas in now. Debbi forwarded an email to the Directors regarding HB2437, Agricultural Channel Maintenance and she provided a copy of the handout to anyone wanting one at the meeting.

Field Tech II: Bodie was unable to attend the meeting.

Field Tech I: Brooke did not have any additions to the report she provided.

District Manager: Chase was unable to attend the meeting.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

MINUTES: The **December 11, 2019** minutes were presented for review. Director Lindquist **moved that the minutes from December 11, 2019 be approved.** Director Hunt seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

BUDGET EXPENSE REPORT: The budget reports dated **January 21, 2020** were reviewed.

It was asked and confirmed if a UTV trailer purchase occurred.

Damon was asked if the \$10,400 remaining in the RCPP fund (line item 42) is compensation for work done that billing needs to be submitted still. He stated the balance was TA, which is for WSWCD to charge against. There is an FA balance, as well but that is for in case any contracts need to be modified.

Damon mentioned a billing error with Gabe that amounted to about \$5,000 that was corrected.

It was asked what the *JD Partnership/FIP* was in the *Other Resources* for \$250,000 (page 4, line 27). Debbi explained it was a placement holder for the funding that will be used for two TA projects. She stated it the actual amount would be closer to \$50,000.

Director Davis **moved that the budget reports dated January 21, 2020 be approved.** Director Collins seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

BILLS: The two check registers dated **December 12, 2019 to January 31, 2020** were reviewed. Director Hunt **moved that the bills dated December 12, 2019 to January 31, 2020 be approved.** Director Haberman seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The nominating committee **proposed** that the officers of the Board remained the same as prior – **Jeremiah Holmes as Chair, Wayne Lindquist as Vice-Chair, and David Hunt as Secretary/Treasurer.** The **proposal carried unanimously.**

There was discussion of the positions held for the nominating committee, to be voted on in February due to confusion of agenda.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: It was asked for clarification of what the committee is for. Chairman Holmes explained the committee is responsible for hiring and managing personnel for the District. Director Haberman **moved that James Collins be Chair.** Director Davis seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.** Director Collins **moved that Kale Haberman be Vice-Chair.** Director Davis seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

ASSOCIATED DIRECTORS: Director Hunt **moved that Rob Wade and Amy Derby be re-affirmed as Associate Directors.** Director Davis seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

DIRECTOR EMERITUS: Director Collins **moved that Ted Molinari be re-affirmed as Director Emeritus.** Director Hunt seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

DESIGNATIONS

AGENT: Director Lindquist **moved that Chase Schultz be the designated agent for Wheeler SWCD.** Director Collins seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLICATION(S): Director Davis **moved that the publications of record for Wheeler SWCD remain The Times-Journal, Wheeler County News, and the East Oregonian.** Director Haberman seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

MEETING LOCATION: Director Collins **moved that the meeting location remain Big Service Corral Conference Room.** Director Hunt seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION: Director Davis **moved that the Annual Meeting location remain the Spray Grange Hall.** Director Haberman seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

INSURANCE AGENT OF RECORD: Director Hunt **moved that the insurance agent of record remain SDIS.** Director Collins seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

Debbi pointed out that the agent needs to be specified.

Motion amended.

AUTHORIZED BANK SIGNERS: Director Collins moved that the authorized signers on the Wheeler SWCD accounts at the Bank of Eastern Oregon be District Manager Chase Schultz, Chairman Holmes, Vice-Chair Lindquist, and Secretary/Treasurer Hunt. Director Rutherford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT: Director Lindquist asked if hiring Judy Potter as finance officer resolved the matter of audit deficiency. Chairman Holmes clarified that the audit being reviewed was for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

The audit report prepared by Barnett & Moro was reviewed. Director Lindquist moved that the audit report be accepted as presented. Director Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CASSANDRA NEWTON FOR BANK CARD AND FUEL CARD USER: Director Hunt moved to approve Cassandra Newton as a user of a bank cards and fuel cards. Director Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS NOT LISTED

SURPLUS TRAILER BIDS: Chairman Holmes announced the bids received.

Mick Wright	\$453.00
Jim Humphrey	\$335.00
Jeffrey Maltman	\$252.00
Bryce Logan	\$111.00

Chase recommended the highest bid be accepted as the winning bid.

Director Hunt moved that the winning bid be awarded to Mick Wright for \$453.00. Director Haberman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NO OLD BUSINESS

ODA TRAINING WITH ERIC NUSBAUM

Eric Nusbaum, Operations Specialist for Oregon Department of Agriculture conducted public official orientation training via PowerPoint and Q&A.

The following topics were included

- ORS 568
- ODA/SWCD Program Organization
- Board of Director Powers
- Public Meeting Law
- Public Records Law
- Ethics
- Conflict of Interest

CORRESPONDENCE

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date will be on February 26, 2020, at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Holmes at 8:48pm.

Copies of all mentioned documents are on file at the Wheeler SWCD office.

Respectfully submitted by Cassandra Newton


Jeremiah Holmes, Chair


Chase Schultz, District Manager

