

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

December 8, 2021

6:00 PM

Meeting location: Spray Grange Hall

ANNUAL MEETING

There were 71 people in attendance at the 2020-2021 Annual Meeting. At 6:00pm Chairman Holmes welcomed and thanked the guests and speakers, Jama Hamel and Larry O'Neill. He advised everyone that a copy of the 2020-2021 Annual Report was placed at each setting and a copy of the 2020-2021 Audit Report was available on each table. Chairman Holmes noted the exceptional projects that the District had accomplished with the help of landowners and partners, and encouraged the guests to view the project displays. He then introduced the Board of Directors, District Staff and local officials in attendance, and thanked the Spray Grange Hall for their hospitality.

Among those in attendance were county and city officials, landowners, ranch managers, business owners, agency partners and colleagues, directors, staff and other interested persons. Members of the Spray Grange decorated the facility and catered a prime rib dinner featuring Painted Hills Natural Beef.

Chairman Holmes presented the District's 2021 Partner of the Year Award to Herb Winters and Gilliam SWCD, stating:

“Much of the progress made in 2021 would not have been possible without your help. The District appreciates the time and energy you put into helping us successfully implement programs and projects across our boundaries, as well as the operational assistance you continue to provide during the transition period of staffing changes.”

Chairman Holmes shared that the community recently lost two former SWCD directors. Matt Williams served as a Director for over 30 years, including two terms as Treasurer. Herb Jones served as a Director for 11 years. Chairman Holmes stated both men were invaluable for their careful stewardship of the District and will be greatly missed in the communities.

In recognition of retirement, Randy presented a plaque of appreciation to Chairman, Jeremiah Holmes commemorate 11 years of dedicated service, tireless commitment and good governance to District staff and landowners.

The two guest speakers were:

1. Jama Hamel, the AgriMet Program Coordinator, Civil Engineer and Hydrogeologist for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Her presentation was on AgriMet Weather Stations.
2. Larry O'Neill, Associate Professor for Oregon State University. His presentation was on Pacific Northwest and Oregon Drought.

Throughout the evening, names were drawn and door prizes were awarded.

BOARD MEETING

The board meeting was called to order by Chairman Holmes at 8:19 p.m. by his watch.

Directors

Jeremiah Holmes David Hunt
Wayne Lindquist Jason Davis
Kale Haberman James Collins

Employees

Randall Williams
Cassandra Newton

OLD BUSINESS

RIVER DEMOCRACY ACT 2021: Chairman Holmes advised that he spoke to Judge Morley and Wheeler County is also opposed to the RDA. He stated that he assisted Randy and Cassi in drafting a letter requesting all stream segments proposed in Wheeler County be removed from the RDA. Chairman Holmes advised the letter was accepted and signed by Wheeler County Court on December 2, 2021.

Vice-Chairman Collins **moved to approve letter written in partnership with Wheeler County Court to request all stream segments located in Wheeler County be removed from the River Democracy Act**, Director Davis seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously**.

NEW BUSINESS

2020-2021 AUDIT: The 2020-2021 Audit was presented for review.

Director Davis **moved approve the 2020-2021 Audit as presented**, Director Haberman seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously**.

DIRECTOR RESIGNATION: Chairman Holmes provided a letter of resignation from the At-Large position with an effective date of December 31, 2021.

Director Lindquist **moved to regretfully accept the letter of resignation from Jeremiah Holmes for the At-Large position, effective December 31, 2021**, Director Davis seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously**.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nominating Committee Chairman Collins resigned from the Committee due to filling in as SWCD Board Chairman beginning January 1, 2022. The SWCD Board of Directors briefly discussed availability.


Director Haberman **moved appoint Director Davis, Director Lindquist, and Director Thomas to the Nominating Committee**, Vice-Chairman Collins seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously**.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next regular meeting will be held on **January 27, 2021**.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Holmes at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cassandra Newton


James Collins, Vice-Chairman


Randall Williams, District Manager