

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

September 25, 2019

The board meeting was called to order by Chairman Holmes at 6:43 p.m. by the clock in the Big Service Corral meeting room, located at 40280 Hwy 19, Fossil, Oregon.

**Directors**

Jeremiah Holmes, Chair

Kale Haberman

Wayne Lindquist

**Assoc. Directors**

Rob Wade

**Others Present**

Chase Schultz, District Manager

Cindy Burlingame, Admin. Assistant

Bodie Brown, Field Tech II

Brooke Moore, Field Tech I

Debbi Bunch, MJDBCWC

Maria Snodgrass, ODA

**AGENDY REPORTS:**

**ODA:** Maria gave a brief update, indicating that HB 2437, pertaining to ditch maintenance/fill removal had passed and that it would bring about some changes in the agency contacted to get permission for covered activities. She also reported that John Byers was retiring at the end of the year, so the State will be looking to fill his position. The position most recently held by Manette Simpson will also be filled in the near future. Maria discussed the rollout process for SIAs. ODA has the budget to introduce eight SIAs per year with a funding level of \$125,000 for technical assistance to landowners. At that rate, Wheeler SWCD will have an SIA in 3-5 years if not sooner. There was discussion with the directors regarding the ability of the District to have input into where the SIA is located and in working together with landowners to increase cooperation.

**DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS:**

- a.) **Watershed Council:** Debbi reported that the Watershed Council's annual meeting had to be postponed due to a medical emergency on the part of one of her directors. The OWEB board is meeting in Condon on October 15, if any of the directors were interested in attending. She also reported that she had been in contact with Nick Webber, and that he was willing to speak at the annual meeting.
- b.) **Field Tech II:** Bodie reported that he'd met with Tristen Berg and Tim Butler regarding weed grants. They were both pleased with the weed work that has been accomplished and they were discussing ways to combat Yellow Star Thistle.
- c.) **Field Tech I:** Brook indicated that she had been very busy performing stream surveys of Mountain Creek and Badger Creek since the last meeting.
- d.) **District Manager:** Chase reported that the RCPP proposal was due by December 3, 2019, but that a commitment was not required until September of 2020. That would give the staff sufficient time to determine if that was the direction they wanted to go. Chase informed the board that there had been an error on a billing to NRCS that was not caught until after NRCS had issued payment, so the District would be required to return the payment.

**MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

**Minutes:** Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes from the August 28, 2019, meeting were not voted on. After they were reviewed, the board recommended approval at the next meeting.

**Budget Expense Report:** Due to a lack of quorum, the budget expense report dated September 17, 2019, was not voted on. After it was reviewed, the board recommended approval at the next meeting.

**Bills:** Chairman Holmes accepted the bills dated September 1-30, 2019, as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The items of old business from the agenda—RCPP and SIA—were discussed under the ODA agency report and the District Manager’s report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Weed Board:** Having a functioning weed board is a requirement, but the Wheeler County Weed Board has not been functioning properly for a time. There was a conversation among directors as to how they thought they remembered the board being structured, but there was a great deal of uncertainty. A copy of the last known letter requesting appointment to the weed board was provided for review. Chairman Holmes directed Cindy to obtain a copy of the Wheeler County Court resolution referenced in the letter so that the District could pursue putting the board back together. Director Haberman indicated that he would not only be willing to serve on the re-established board, but that he would also be willing to chair it.

**Annual Meeting:** The board discussed the upcoming annual meeting and directed the District Manager, with staff input, to select the person or agency to be recognized as the outstanding partner. Additionally, the board discussed how to recognize recently retired District Manager Judy Potter.

**Archaeology Firm:** Chase had received two bids/proposals from archaeology firms, and was expecting at least one more. The board indicated that because the dollar amount fell within the limiting amount set forth in the designation of authority they would like Chase to make the decision he was most comfortable with.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting date will be on October 30, 2019, at 6:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Holmes at 8:08 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Cindy Burlingame*

  
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Jeremiah Holmes, Chair

  
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Chase Schultz, District Manager