

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

August 28, 2019

The board meeting was called to order by Chairman Holmes at 6:37 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
Dave Hunt

Assoc. Directors

Others Present

Chase Schultz, District Manager
Cindy Burlingame, Admin. Assistant
Bodie Brown, Field Tech II
Brooke Dyer, Field Tech I
Debbi Bunch, MJDBCWC
Herb Jones

AGENDY REPORTS:

(No agency staff present)

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS:

- a.) **Watershed Council:** Debbi reported that the Mid John Day Bridge Creek Watershed Council annual meeting is scheduled for September 26. She also informed the board that there was an upcoming ranch succession planning workshop scheduled in Canyon City, offering to pass along additional information to any directors interested in participating. The John Day Partnership met last week and the work plan is done. The North Fork has an outreach grant and is doing some publicity work, so there will be a booth at the Painted Hills Festival. The Lower John Day Working Group has the step 3 report currently being circulated for internal review and comments, which should be incorporated into the report by September 15. The October meeting will be in Condon.
- b.) **Field Tech II:** Bodie reported that the USDA was nearing approval for a biocontrol for Yellow Star Thistle, hopefully it'll be out in about a year
- c.) **Field Tech I:** Brooke Dyer indicated that she didn't have anything to report, as she was just getting started in the position.
- d.) **District Manager:** Chase indicated that his report was very current. He did add for the board's consideration that he was under a very strong impression that there would be a Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) in Wheeler County within the next two or three years. At this point there was general discussion about SIAs and how local landowners might respond if and when one is located in the area.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

Minutes: The June 26, 2019, minutes were presented for review. Director Lindquist **moved that the minutes from June 26, 2019 be approved**, Director Haberman seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously.**

Budget Expense Report: The budget reports dated August 21, 2019, were reviewed. Director Haberman **moved that the budget reports dated August 21, 2019, be approved**, Director Hunt seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Bills: The check registers dated June 30, 2019 to July 31, 2019 and August 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019, were reviewed by the group. Director Lindquist **moved that the bills dated June 30, 2019 to July 31, 2019 and August 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019, be approved**, Director Hunt seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Staff Transition: Chase reported to the board that the staff transition was a slow process but at this point all seems to be going well. Chase stepped in as the district manager full-time as of August 1, and Brooke Dyer has just recently started as well. It was decided that Bodie would stay at the helm of the weed program because of his specialized knowledge, and that the CREP work would be split between Bodie and Brooke.

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnership for Conservation: An email from Partnership for Conservation was sent to the District in early July discussing some issues currently facing conservation easements at the federal level with regard to IRS policy. The email was reviewed and there was some generalized discussion regarding easements, but due to the lateness of the discussion it was felt that it would be too late to sign the letter of support.

Annual Meeting Planning: Debbi asked the directors for suggestions of potential topics for a speaker at the annual meeting. The topic of beaver dam analogs (BDAs) is an emerging issue and there was some conversation regarding whether it would make a good topic. Debbi indicated that she would contact a potential speaker for the meeting.

Credit Card/Fuel Card: Chase asked the board to approve adding Brooke Dyer Moore to the approved signers for the District credit card with Bank of Eastern Oregon and the fuel cards through Fossil Fuel and that Judy Potter be removed from the same. Director Hunt **moved that Brooke Dyer Moore be approved as a signer for the District credit card with Bank of Eastern Oregon and the fuel cards through Fossil Fuel, and that Judy Potter be removed from the same**, Director Haberman seconded the motion. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be on September 25, 2019, at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Holmes at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Burlingame



Jeremiah Holmes, Chair



Chase Schultz, District Manager