



P O Box 95 Monument, OR 97864

MEETING MINUTES

August 05, 2024

Monument Senior Center

Monthly Board Meeting

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Andy Watkins.

Board of Directors in attendance – John Volle, Brian Campbell, and Andy Watkins.

Associate Directors in attendance – None in attendance.

Staff – Erik Rook (District Manager), Todd Hoodenpyl (Office Manager), and Joe Spindler (Project Technician).

GUEST LIST: Maria Snodgress (ODA-by phone), Andrea Kreiner (OACD-by phone), and Kellie Frank (FSA-by phone).

District Minutes:

A motion was made by Brian Campbell to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy Watkins. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION REPORTS

ODA- Maria Snodgress stated that she had nothing to report and wanted to listen into the meeting due to the fires.

OACD- Andrea Kreiner reported that they were getting ready for the annual conference scheduled for Oct 14 through October 16 at the Hood River Inn located in Hood River. Andrea stated that this year they will have both a District Manager and Director Round tables.

FSA- Kellie Frank (who called in middle of meeting) reported that FSA is offering an emergency livestock program to cover grazing loss and hauling water due to the area fires. Additionally, they will be offering a forage program but will require the landowner to reside in a drought area. Also, FSA will be offering a cost share program for fencing repair. Land owners with damaged fencing will need to register with FSA to ensure eligibility and need documentation of acres effected. Landowners will have to track any purchases, labor, or material for a 70% FSA cost share. Kellie did note that landowners will need to cover the costs initially as FSA will reimburse later. And lastly, there is the livestock indemnity program for landowners who believe they have lost cattle due to the fire. This will be an outright payout program and livestock

producers will need to file a notice of loss with FSA ASAP and provide the appropriate proof and documentation.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. District Manager Report: Erik Rook provided an update on current projects and fire related issues. Erik discussed the ODA capacity and the need for an Audit to be completed for ODA and the auditor conducting fiscal year 2023-2024 audit. Erik informed the Board about community fire restoration meetings that have occurred in Long Creek with several more planned to include one in Monument. A copy of the detailed report is available at the MSWCD office.
2. Financial Report: Todd Hoodenpyl presented the Monthly Fiscal report along with supporting documents. Todd informed the Board that several accounts are several months overdue with one account being overdue over a year. The board was provided a copy of the fiscal policy they adopted this year. The board agreed that an account that was overdue 90 days, should have a 1.5 percent fee applied. The Board also suggested that contact should be made with those account holders overdue prior to the 1.5 percent fee being applied. **A motion was made by Brian Campbell to approve the Fiscal Report as presented. The motion was seconded by John Volle. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

OLD BUSINESS

Audit- Erik Rook provided the board with a letter of engagement with Harrang P.C. which a law firm that will represent us should the auditor not fulfill his contractual agreement with MSWCD. The board agreed that a September 01, 2024 deadline should be enforced and then appropriate legal action should be taken.

Director Election Information- Erik Rook reminded the Board on the upcoming deadline for election associated paperwork to be filed.

NEW BUSINESS

New Board Meeting Times- Erik Rook spoke with the Board about the need to change the date and time of the board meeting to increase involvement from program partners. Erik recommended that we change the Board meetings to regular work hours and to a location where internet was sufficient to allow the use of Teams or Zoom for those that cannot travel to Monument. Overall, the Board was positive about the change and advised Erik to schedule the meetings as he saw appropriate.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:05 pm

MEETINGS: Next MSWCD board meeting to be held at the Monument Senior Center on September 09, 2024 at 5pm.

Approved by:

Chairman/Vice Chairman

Date

Recorded and submitted by

Date

Definitions

MSWCD: Monument Soil and Water Conservation District

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

NFJDWC: North Fork John Day Watershed Council

OWEB: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

ODA: Oregon Department of Agriculture

SIA: Strategic Implementation Area

AG: Agricultural

CTWS: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

ODF: Oregon Department of Forestry

ODFW: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife