

P O Box 95 Monument, OR 97864

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2022

Monument Senior Center

Monthly Board Meeting

Call to Order – Jim Bahrenburg called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Board of Directors in attendance – Brian Campbell, Jim Bahrenburg, and Andy Watkins.

Associate Directors in attendance – Carrie Jewel

Staff – Erik Rook (District Manager), Patrick Baxter (Office Assistant), and BA Robbins (Office Manager) via phone.

Guests: Aaron Roth (NCRS), Kristen Walz (Watershed Council) via phone, Alex Rice (Watershed Council) via phone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Jim Bahrenburg to approve the meeting minutes from 12/6/21 and was seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION REPORTS

NCRS: Aaron reports that Covid has reduced office staff by ~50%, and office is currently by appointment only. Reminder letters will be sent out for cost share projects. NCRS is waiving the 2-year wait period on unfunded claims. The Annual Local Workgroup Meeting will be held February 16th via Zoom due to Covid; Partners will be presenting, and many topics will be discussed. NRCS is looking at projects for water storage that would be available as stock water and fire suppression. Aaron shared an information packet; current Drought and Snow Pack statistics. RCPP and AFI sign ups are coming up next week.

Aaron gave the Civil Rights Training presentation. The Board signed the participation sheet.

NFJDWC: Alex reports they are working with a consulting firm to help manage coming projects and improve capacity. They are working with the Bureau of Land Management to reconstruct boundary fences between BLM and Forest Service lines. During the spring they will propose an OWEB technical assistance grant for Rudio Creek seeking a Strategic Action Plan for the watershed.

Kristen further shared that both projects are in the early stages and will updated as information becomes available. She will work with Jim Bahrenburg to get a Hydrology Report about the Austin Project.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. District Manager Report: Erik reports that the Small Mouth Bass Monitoring project is in winter mode and the primary focus is collating data, reporting, and manual drafting; he met with ODFW on January 6th to discuss future projects. The Cole-Engle Habitat Implementation project has renewed the Removal Fill Permit; project is shovel ready. The ODA Capacity quarterly report will be submitted by January 17th. CTWS Capacity grant is moving forward with a new agreement for \$69K in February. JDBP Capacity is funded for meetings and partnership participation. SDAO Safety and Security Grant for MSWCD Yard Fencing and Signage has been funded.

The Engle Juniper grant for 492-acre juniper cut has been submitted, and we are waiting to hear back. North Fork John Day Leafy Spurge grant has been submitted. Top Ranch Forestry project site tour for adaptive management has been completed. A pilot project for an alternate use water reservoir has been started, Erik has talked with the Watermaster, and will meet with landowners to identify a site.

The Small Grant Team agreement for 2 years of funding is already over the requested limit, Erik will schedule a meeting to discuss what options are available moving forward. This would affect the Schultz Juniper and Campbell Springs projects.

Erik is waiting on the results of the Cavender Wetland Delineation. He had a virtual meeting with DSL to discuss the parameters of the Wetland, and there are many options to resolve potential issues.

Erik proposed opening up a Project Manager Position in February. The Board discussed policy/procedure, and was supportive of the idea.

SDAO responded to the recent BOLI claim and recommended the case be dismissed do to lack of facts to support claim.

2. Financial Report: BA provided the financial report along with supporting documentation. A motion to approve the report was made by Andy Watkins and seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Erik shared that there are some inventory items that are expensive and difficult to use due to regulation changes. The board discussed options to get them out of inventory.

Due to the anticipated price increases and lack of availability of treatment chemicals, MSWCD has preordered the commonly used ones to ensure they will be available affordably for landowners.

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal & Administrative – District Manager – Debit Card: Forms were signed by board members to finalize the changes.

Fiscal & Administrative – District Manager – Check Signing: Forms were signed by board members to finalize the changes.

Annual Meeting: Will be Admin only and held in February. A public meeting will be held during the summer.

NEW BUSINESS

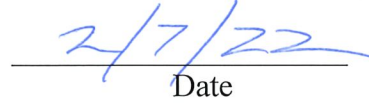
PUBLIC COMMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:58pm

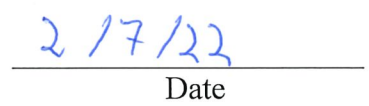
MEETINGS: Next MSWCD board meeting to be held at the Monument Senior Center on February 7, 2022 at 5pm.

Approved by:


Chairman/Vice Chairman


Date


Recorded and submitted by


Date

