

P O Box 95
Monument, OR 97864

MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2021

Conference Call

Monthly Board Meeting

Call to Order – BA Robbins called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Board of Directors in attendance – Brian Campbell, Andy Watkins, Jeff Thomas and Troy Cox
Staff – BA Robbins (District Manager), Greg Hill (Project Manager)

Guests: Aaron Roth- NRCS District Conservationist

Oath of Office: BA Robbins, a Notary Public administered the oath of office to the recently elected board members. Brian Campbell and Jeff Thomas were sworn in to their board positions. Due to the virtual meeting the oath of office form will be signed as soon as possible.

Zone 2 Board Member Appointments: A motion to appoint Troy Cox to the Zone 2 board position was made by Jeff Thomas and seconded by Andy Watkins. The oath of office was administered by BA Robbins.

Election of Officers: Jeff Thomas made a motion to nominate Jim Bahrenburg's to the position of Board Chairman. The motion was seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Jeff Thomas made a motion to nominate Andy Watkins to the position of Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Andy Watkins made a motion to nominate Jeff Thomas's to the position of Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Troy Cox. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Zone 1 Board member Status Update: A property sale was made of the North Fork Ranch; Jim Bahrenburg has been retained to manage the property for organic farming. The acreage is more than the 10 acres required to sit on the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Troy Cox to approve the meeting minutes from 11/2/2020 and seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Aaron Roth updated the board on NRCS review of COVID status in the John Day office, the office is going back to phase 1 protocols. Aaron also informed the board of 2 new Soil Conservationist hires and one additional job posting, the upcoming annual Local Area Work Group webinars in lieu of the traditional meetings, and the April 16th EQIP deadline. Aaron also

let us know of the Quality Assurance Review that will be conducted in April. There will be a review team who will be contacting local producers and board members to survey the quality of assistance from the local NRCS office. Arron asked if there were any volunteers, there was no immediate response.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Project Manager Report: Greg gave his report on the status of current open projects, recent and upcoming site visits, development of upcoming projects and the status of the RCPP application.
2. District Manager report- BA updated the board on new contracts and partnerships with the CTWS and Malheur National Forest.
3. Financial Report: BA gave the financial report. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jeff Thomas and seconded by Troy Cox. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. Audit: BA presented the board with District report for the audit. A motion to approve the audit report was made by Jeff Thomas and seconded by Andy Watkins. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
5. Monument Vegetation Management: BA updated the board on Larry Stevens passing his pesticide applicators exam and returning to work on February 15th.
6. IT/COVID: BA informed the board of receiving a CARES act funding for COVID relief and buying a new office computer with the funding. BA also informed the board of signing a lease for a new copy machine.

BA asked if the board would like to conduct a 1-year review/evaluation of her tenure as District manager. Andy Watkins and Troy Cox suggested it would be a good idea and that evaluation documents should be brought to the next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ODA: BA informed the board of an upcoming conference call meeting with ODA representatives regarding the SIA's on 1/29/2021, from 9:30-10:30 am. BA presented the official MSWCD position statement that had been prepared for the meeting and asked for any comments from the board. All board members agreed that it represented MSWCD values well.

BA also reminded the board of a Landowner Advisory Committee meeting coming up and a report that she will be submitting to Maria Snodgrass for the meeting.

2. Equipment- The cargo container has been delivered; the ATV's are being stored inside for the winter. The container will be fitted by early spring for the MVM program. BA updated the board on the purchase of the used utility trailer and side by side. Larry will have the

trailer rewired and the electric brakes refurbished by early spring. The range drill will be advertised for sale according to our surplus property policy by mid-February.

3. BA informed the board of the increase to the District's unemployment wage rate. Discussion followed. BA has sent a letter requesting detailed information on the charges to our account. Follow up will be done by BA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Meeting: BA suggested holding the 2021 Annual Meeting in conjunction with the March board meeting (3/1/2021). A motion to have the annual meeting in conjunction with the 3/1/2021 board meeting was made by Troy Cox and seconded by Jeff Thomas. The motion passed by unanimous vote. BA also proposed holding an outdoor, landowner presentation for use of the bio-control Battalion Pro on Medusahead. All board members like this idea and agreed to discuss it further at the next board meeting.
2. Producer outreach: An outdoor meeting with the sales rep from Bio-West Ag. The tentative date is in April at the Cochran Creek Ranch. Details to follow.
3. Associate Directors, General Discussion: BA discussed potential community members for the Associate Director position.
4. LAC: The Ag Water Quality Local Advisory Committee will have a bi-annual "light" meeting. The report for the work done will be compiled by BA. Maria will set the date for the meeting, details to follow.

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

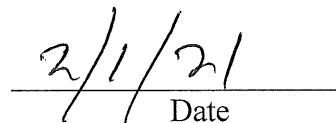
MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:25 pm

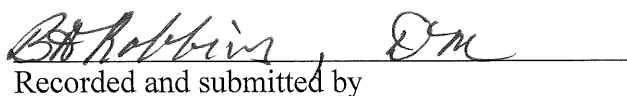
MEETINGS:

Next MSWCD board meeting to be held on February 1, 2021 at 5 pm via conference call.

Approved by:


Chairman/Vice Chairman


Date


Recorded and submitted by


Date