

P O Box 95 Monument, OR 97864

MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2021

Monument Senior Center

Monthly Board Meeting

Call to Order – Jim Bahrenburg called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Board of Directors in attendance –Brian Campbell, Jim Bahrenburg, Troy Cox, Jeff Thomas via phone (5:11)

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Jim Bahrenburg to approve the meeting minutes from 11/1/21 and was seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION REPORTS

NCRS: Aaron reports that Civil Rights review is coming up Jan/Feb, and will discuss more with Erik offline. They are working on getting the Local Work Group meeting scheduled. ODF is holding interviews for new positions to help NCRS with the coming workload that covers four counties. Aaron warned of herbicide shortages/price inflations/sale restrictions happening. Erik will contact Matt and MSWCD's Representative to see how that effects MSWCD.

Watershed Council: Kristen reports that big initiatives are coming: a large revegetation project on the Middle Forks involving four private landowners. They attended the All-Lands Partnership Meeting. Opportunities to coordinate with a wide range of partners and agencies across the Blue Mountains.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. District Manager Report: Erik reports that the Smallmouth Bass snorkel surveys are complete, the winterizing of monitoring equipment is nearly complete, and he will meet with ODFW to discuss future projects in January. The Cole Engle Habitat Implementation is coming in July, and the DSL Permit has been renewed. The ODA Capacity Grant FAAP/SOW quarterly report was submitted and approved. A new agreement has been submitted for the CTWS Capacity Grant.

JDBP Capacity funds for meetings and partnership participation are funded.

The virtual tour for the 492-acre Engle Juniper project has been completed. North Fork John Day Leafy Spurge Grant will be submitted by December 15th. Erik is setting up a meeting with Jeff Maben and Scott Sutton to discuss the Rudio Headwaters Part II project. The Small Grant Team Agreement for two years of funding was opened in November with \$66K already requested: this will help fund the Schultz Juniper and Campbell Springs projects.

The Cavender Wetland delineation has been completed. SDAO Grant has been submitted to fund a gate to the MWCD parking lot to increase security and allow a sign to be installed to better direct customers to the office.

A BOLI claim has been filed against MSWCD by a former employee, and is in the initial steps of the investigation. SDAO is representing MSWCD in this matter, and the next update is expected in 9-14 months. The board members discussed this matter and Erik provided additional information.

Erik attended the Oregon Weed Mangers Meeting in La Grande in November, and had good discussions with the group. Initial testing on Rejuvra Herbicide shows it is very good at managing annual grasses while protecting perennial grasses. Erik wants to work with landowners to get more of this product in use.

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

MSWCD's unemployment ratings are in and down to 0.9% from last year's 3.3% for wages. Lowest ever was 0.7%

Erik's 90-day review is upcoming and will involve the previously agreed wage increase.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fiscal & Administrative – District Manager – Debit Card: Motion to grant Erik Rook a Debit Card for the MSWCD Bank of Eastern Oregon account was made by Troy Cox, and seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion was passed with unanimous vote.
2. Fiscal & Administrative – District Manager – Check Signing: Erik suggested a change to who has Check Signing Authority, and the board discussed.

A motion to change Check Signing Authority to Erik Rook, Jim Bahrenburg, and Brian Campbell was made by Troy Cox and seconded by Jim Bahrenburg. The motion was passed with unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. BA PTO Change: Since BA's role has changed at MSWCD, the board discussed a change to her PTO accrual rate. A motion to approve BA for a reduced PTO accrual rate of 8 hours a month was made by Jim Bahrenburg and seconded by Troy Cox. The motion was passed with unanimous vote.

2. Christmas Appreciation Gift Cards: The board discussed the option to give MSWCD employees Christmas Appreciate Gift Cards. A motion to give out Gift Cards to MSWCD employees for \$100 was made by Troy Cox and seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion was passed with unanimous vote.

3. Annual Meeting in February: Erik proposed that this be administrators only and postpone the Landowner Seminar part of the event to late spring or early summer due to COVID restrictions. The board discussed and agreed.


4. Public Meeting in the Park: Will be held in the Summer of 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT


MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:50pm

MEETINGS: Next MSWCD board meeting to be held at the Monument Senior Center on January 10, 2021 at 5pm.

Approved by:



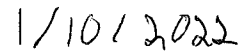
Chairman/Vice Chairman



Date



Recorded and submitted by



Date

