



*Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Annual Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2016
(Approved December 15, 2016)

Annual meeting was called to order at 8:45 PM by Mark Villers

Board members present: Mark Villers, Dan Pierce, Adela Villers, Charlie Waterman, Chuck Steffensmeier,

Absent board members: Ernie Newton

Staff: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas

Guests present: Christopher Claire (ODFW), Barbara Grant (Curry SWCD/CREP Tech), Rushal Sedlemyer (OSU student)

8:45PM Caley suggested that the board table the September minutes until the following meeting, since board packets had been handed out at the meeting rather than mailed out beforehand, no one had had time to read them prior to the meeting. The board agreed to table the minutes until the December meeting.

8:47PM Caley informed the board of the upcoming director training on January 31, 2017. Chuck asked what official requirements there are for directors now that elections are over. Mark stated it would be nice to have the vacant director position (Zone 4, formerly Beau Allen) filled by the time of the training. It was suggested that there has been some possible interest expressed by an individual in the Myrtle Point area.

8:50PM Treasurer's Report: Quarterly reports were due October 15th; we had a carry-over balance of roughly \$3000 to the next quarter, but that allows some room in the budget for Modena to work more hours.

8:52PM Barbara Grant has two small CREP contracts that require signatures

- Described condition of pasture
- One will be a good candidate for ag water quality improvement project
- Purchaser takes on annual rental payment but also has to assume responsibility

9:00PM Barbara also discussed the recently completed Ross Slough project in the Coos Watershed

- Project involved lots of fencing on the newly re-meandered channel– over 4000 ft. of fence total, which the CREP will help pay for
- Low-water rocked crossings for livestock
- Curry SWCD is learning not to plant Douglas Spirea on really narrow drainages, as it tends to spread rapidly and can cause undesirable overflows/flooding

9:05PM Barbara's CREP report concludes

9:05PM Mark gave some updates on the progress of the Wood Creek Project

- Fencing is nearing completion
- Training the elk to get used to the new fence
- Setbacks not 25' in all places, but will average out to 25' overall

9:10PM Discussed moving December meeting to December 15th rather than the 22nd.

- Charlie might have scheduling conflict on the 15th but December 8th works

9:15PM Discussed and Reviewed the 2016 Annual Report

- Chris talked about the educational component of Offield Creek (depicted in photos in the Annual Report)
- Using the ODFW backpack electro shocker to locate some examples of juvenile salmonids in the stream to show to the NWYC kids
- Caley explained that she and Modena had opted to print and bind the reports in-house this year, and purchased a spiral binding machine which will save on costs for production of future reports.
- Chuck complimented the production quality and layout of this year's report, and asked if this Annual Meeting/Report is typical
- Charlie mentioned there is no cooperator of the year this year
- Caley explained that none of our current small grant projects were actually complete yet. The two primary candidates would be Dan Pierce, for the Offield Creek Project, and Bob Ross, for Wood Creek.
- Bob had already expressed (possibly jokingly) to Mark that he was not interested in the award because he would likely be too busy to attend the meeting, and Caley would like to see the Offield Creek Project be completed first as it makes a more impressive presentation to be able to show the finished product.

9:45PM Caley and Chris discussed the two recently submitted OWEB grants for board members that were absent at the last board meeting(s):

- North Bank Working Landscapes/ "Stalley" project
- Adams Creek or "Barker" culvert replacement and riparian project
- Chris explained to the board that Caley may need to spend staff time working on permits before funding is officially secured in order to keep up with the desired project timeline of permitting and implementation in 2017 instream work season.
- The projects are much larger budget than the District is used to working with, will challenge and require staff to learn a lot of new skillsets
- Caley added that the desirability for moving in the direction of taking on larger projects comes, in part, from the significant amount of administration costs included within these larger grant budgets. Small grants have a \$200 limit on administration; the District typically brings in about \$600 for each small grant that it completes, which is rarely enough to cover the amount of staff time spent on them.
- If funded, the Barker/Stalley projects will have a significant impact on our annual operating budget. The administration fees from the Stalley project alone, for example, would provide nearly enough funding for Modena to work full time next year.

9:57PM Meeting adjourned

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date