



*Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes-
May 22nd, 2014
(Approved June 26, 2014)

Regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman, Mark Villers.

Board members present: Mark Villers, Steve Scheer, Ernie Newton, Dan Pierce.

Absent board members: Empty zone 5, Beau Allen, Charlie Waterman.

Staff: Caley Sowers

Guests present: Amy Wilson (NRCS), Beth Pietrzak (ODA), Cheryl Westgaard (Beaver Hill Disposal), Jeff Jackson (ODFW), Kevin Masterson (DEQ), Seth Fandel (Coquille Valley Accounting), Steve Riley (ODA), Pam Blake (DEQ), Kevin Masterson (DEQ), Roger Doll (member of the public), Carol Major (member of the public).

Introductions: All members introduced themselves. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

7:30 PM-8:30 PM Guest Speakers:

Guest Speakers Kevin Masterson and Steven Riley gave a Power-point slideshow presentation on the Pesticide Stewardship Program and Legacy Pesticide Collection Events (see printed version of presentation in the minute's binder). They explained that the purpose of the program is to drive voluntary local management practices and create awareness in the community. They mentioned that more than twenty pesticide ingredients were often found during one monitoring season in a single watershed. They also emphasized that the goal of this program is not to publish studies but to get results done on the ground.

Cheryl Westgaard of Beaver Hill Solid Waste Disposal spoke next about the possibility of coordinating an event involving the collection of household and non-commercial as well as agricultural and commercial chemicals and pesticides at the same time. She also talked about the chemical collection facility that was being constructed at Beaver Hill Disposal and the possibility of using that as the event location. Possible days and time of the event were also discussed.

Advertisement of the event was brought up, and Steve Riley and Kevin Masterson explained that all licensed pesticide applicators would be on file with ODA. Caley mentioned that the district might obtain a long list of landowners from the County Tax Assessor, as well as utilizing the lengthy OSU Extension mailing list. The District would also employ the use of local media to advertise to the public in general.

8:30 PM-8:32 PM Approval of April Regular Minutes:

Mark asked if anyone had any changes or edits to make to the April Minutes. No one had any corrections so the Board moved on to the Treasury Report.

8:32 PM-8:50 PM Treasury Report: - Seth Fandel- Seth provided a report of the District's finances and pointed out that the ODA SOW funds were currently at about \$9000 (over-budget) and estimated that they would be at about \$13,000 by the end of the fiscal year. He explained that every time we start to spend down the gap a little bit, we receive the next quarter payment from ODA. Seth suggested that we need to address the problems with the budget quarter by quarter, and figure out why it's not working, and what we need to do differently. Staff Caley Sowers also pointed out that she had recently been reminded by Heather Rickenbach that the District Operations funds had to be spent down to zero by the end of this fiscal year (July 15th 2014), but that this should not be terribly hard to accomplish.

The Board then began discussing the hiring of a part-time administrative assistant to take on some of the office duties, and thereby freeing up staff to do more SOW-related tasks. Caley mentioned that Charlie had

called the office to say that he would not be attending the meeting, but that he thought it was time the District start looking into hiring a second person through a temp agency. Ernie added that the Coquille Watershed Association used to hire employees through a temp agency frequently in the past and it had worked out well. Amy pointed out that work should really be what drives the staff, and not the other way around. She suggested that the Board create a 'wish list' of what we want to accomplish over time, and this will paint a clearer picture of what we need to be doing. Beth added that Eric Nusbaum is always there to provide help with the long range plan and goals. As it was getting late, Mark suggested we move on with the meeting. **Ernie then moved to approve the April minutes and the Treasure's Report, both. Dan seconded the motion, all in favor, the motion passed.**

Agency Reports:

ODA (8:50 PM-9:00 PM) – Beth Pietrzak- Beth announced that the Local Advisory Committee Meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 17th, at 6 PM at the Owen Building. The purpose of the LAC meeting is to review what's been implemented in the area in the past two years, relevant to the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan and Rules. She also gave an update on the recent violation complaint that she had received on a landowner on Hwy 42, about manure being stored too close to a wetland area. She stated that she had sent a letter and left phone messages as well as investigating the property where it is visible from public access road, and that she is still looking into the matter. Beth also noted that she would be going out into the field tomorrow with Caley to look at some past projects done in the Langlois area by Curry SWCD during the time that she used to work there.

NRCS (9:00-9:10) Amy Wilson (see attached printed report: May 2014 Update) –Amy announced that she did not have much news to report, but has been searching for little tidbits of new information on the farm bill and various easement programs. The Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP) which was created through the farm bill, funds easements for agricultural lands and wetlands reserves. This new program is a combination of NRCS's former Farm and Ranch Lands Protection, Grassland Reserves, and Wetlands Reserves Programs.

Under the agricultural land component, funds are provided to purchase agricultural land easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. Approved easements would prevent productive working lands from being converted to non-ag uses and maximize protection of land devoted to food and fiber production. The ACEP now has funding available for the purchase of conservation easements on eligible agricultural lands and wetlands in Oregon, but applications must be submitted by June 6th, so the deadline is fast approaching.

CREP (N/A)

FSA- (N/A)

ODF&W (9:10 PM) - Jeff Jackson- Jeff had to leave the meeting earlier due to his long commute and so was not present to give a report.

OSU-Extension - N/A

Weed Board (9:10 PM-9:20 PM) -Steve Scheer- Steve reported on the upcoming herbicide class that would be taking place at the Mill Casino on June 4, 2014. The name of the class is Practical Applications in Vegetation Management and is hosted and sponsored by the SAF Coos Chapter and Plum Creek Timber. Steve reported that the class would consist of a one-day workshop focusing on practical applications in managing forest vegetation. It will also be an opportunity for people to get their herbicide applicator and SAF CFE credits. The class is worth four credits.

Steve also reported that the County Commissioners had recently approved \$4000 in funding to Coos Watershed Association for herbicide and weed mapping, and plant restoration. Steve also talked about a new invasive weed, called Pepper Weed that was first seen in Grants Pass but is spreading to other areas. He described the plant as being 3-4 feet tall and having a white top.

CWA (9:20 PM-9:25 PM) - Ernie Newton (see attached printed report: Program Managers Month Update – May 2014) – Ernie had provided printed report handouts but due to time constraints, chose not to read his report out loud. The written report provided updates on all of the different projects currently being managed by the Coquille Watershed Association.

Staff Reports:

WTS (9:25 PM-9:30 PM) –Staff Caley Sowers provided a brief report of her activities over the past month and plans for upcoming activities. She reported on the turn out for the Mud and Manure Management Workshop which had just taken place prior to the meeting, her thoughts on its success, and plans to conduct more outreach in the near future. She also gave an update on the DeCaire’s Manure Management Small Grant Project and its approval by the small grant team on May 6th. She reported that there were some problems with the application upon submission to OWEB but she would be addressing these and resubmitting the application as soon as possible. Beth also offered to look into this and provide assistance. Staff also talked about the recent Mycofiltration event she had attended as a volunteer with the CWA, and how she had made a good contact for Focus Area outreach with John Jones of the CWA board. He has offered to take her on a tour to meet with several Ag-landowning neighbors on Myrtle Creek in the next few weeks. Staff would also be going on a training tour of past SWCD projects in Curry County with Beth Pietrzak on the following morning.

Old Business:

9:30 PM-9:35 PM

- a) **Approval of Employee Handbook Ch. 4- Steve moved to approve Ch. 4 of the revised employee handbook. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.**

New Business:

9:35 PM - 9:45 PM

- a) **Employee Handbook Ch. 5 Review-** Nobody had any major changes to make to Chapter 5 of the employee handbook. Steve’s only comment was to say that he would like to see the language changed to reflect that any incidents of harassment, sexual or otherwise, should be reported to the Board of Directors as well as to the employee’s supervisor. Staff made a note to make the change.
- b) **Safety Report- SDAO/SDIS-** No safety report due to time constraints.
- c) **Public Comment on agenda items-** No public comments.
- d) **Next Meeting:** June 26th, 2014, at 7 p.m. at the Coos County Annex/Owen Building Large Conference Room.
- e) **Additional Business to Address:** No additional business.
- f) **Director’s Signatures Needed:**
- g) **Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 PM**

Ratified by the Board of Directors:

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Caley Sowers

Date