



Crook County Soil & Water Conservation District
498 SE Lynn Blvd.
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SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13th, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Crook County Extension Conference Room
498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, OR 97754

Board Members Present: Zach Flegel, Gary Bedortha, Bill Sigman

SWCD staff present: Andy Gallagher, Melissa Stanek

Also present: John Dehler, Maria Snodgrass, Tim Deboodt, Chris Mundy, Scott Duggan, Brittany Mills

The following documents presented and are attached:

- April Minutes
- Treasurers' Report
- Project and Activity Update
- 2024-2025 Annual Budget (draft)
- ODA Water Quality – requested from Brittany, emailed on 5.13.2024

9:01 a.m. Meeting called to order by Zach Flegel.

Introductions:

- Introduced new Administrative Specialist: Melissa Stanek.

Confirmation of Minutes: March 2024



03.2024_CROOK_S
WCD_Meeting.pdf

Gary Bedortha motioned to accept minutes. Bill Sigman 2nd the motion. Minutes passed.

Treasurers' Report:



April Financial
Report Final.pdf

- Andy went over the attached Treasurers' Report Melissa created.
 - The HB 2010 Juniper Bill funding that was received has been moved into the LGIP, it made \$2,600+ in interest in April.



- Suggestions to change P&L by Class monthly to just the annual P&L by Class, also to remove the A/P report, agreed.
- Action Item – Gary would like to see the unrestricted funds to give us a better idea of income we have coming in.

Bill Sigman motion to approve, Gary Bedortha 2nd, the motion, Treasures' Report passed.

Project and Activity Update:



5 Project
Update.pdf

- Andy reviewed attached Project Update.
- Andy imagines that Abby will be exclusively on Sage Grouse and that he will pick up everything else.
- Juniper Bill is not moving forward right now, still waiting to hear from OSU on monitoring, setting up a tour to go look at the project in the next couple of weeks.
 - It's just sitting right now but it's almost more important to get the project moving at this point, at this point the grant agreement expires at the end of the year.
 - This project is N side of Hampton butte, it's \$850,000, there is some NFWF funding and some other funding.
 - Grant agreement says we can't spend the money on monitoring.
 - The state bill that was past gave money to 7 SWCD districts, it requires 3 of the county projects to be monitored, we thought monitoring would be done by OSU, but they believe their part is strictly consultation and that monitoring resides with SWCDs.
 - Some counties are moving forward because they already had monitoring in place.

SWCD Business:



2024-2025
Budget_draft.pdf

2024-2025 Draft Budget: Discussion

- Andy reviewed the 24-25 budget.
- Increase in payroll, new administrative position, CRWC will pay 40%, increase in Andy and Abby's payroll.
- Other employee benefits have also increased including health insurance due to adding Melissa and Abby.
- Accounting fees have increased from \$6K to \$13K with the new financial reporting rules.



- Still have a vehicle purchase in the budget because we haven't done that, and it's been a year.
- Action Items – Update the year to 24-25 in several places prior to final approval
- All the yellow are identifying grants that are ending this next year.
- ODA is also expiring this fiscal year.
- Difference ODA IGA and ODA Operations is that IGA is money to improve water quality.
- Bookkeeping/Payroll cost is to have Jerry Garner at Basic Books manage our payroll.
- Contracted services are where you'll see most of the changes from the draft budget to final, we are trying to plan it out before the final budget is the end of June.
 - If we start tearing into the Juniper bill, we will be spending more money, and this number will change in the next month.
- The \$850K was accepted to cut juniper but not to include monitoring, Tim - Legislators may work with the 3 districts to include some of the monitoring, it's too late to go back to OWEB to ask for monitoring grant because that wouldn't be awarded until next April.
 - Tim feels the districts need something in the next 30 days to get work started; if not, fire season starts soon so we won't be able to get this started until fall.
 - The district has the authority to determine how monitoring will take place and we aren't doing the paired watershed, we need a little before and a whole lot after, could be pictures, channel flow managements, vegetative responses. It's still up to OSU and the district must agree.
 - If OSU is going to do the monitoring, they need to determine what that looks like, we've been waiting since November.
- No other questions on budget right now.

Board Tour Dates:

- CRWC is also looking at doing a tour and are open to doing a combined tour with us, if we combine it would be July, probably the week of the 15th or 22nd.
 - If it's just this group, we will be looking at the last week in June.
 - This is optional.
- The tour location(s) haven't been determined yet.
 - It could be focused on juniper removal, there are a lot of these projects so that is an option.
- Everyone is good with combining this in July.

Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Program:



ODA ADCM
presentation.pdf

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- Brittany Mills, Agricultural Drainage Channel Specialist
Oregon Department of Agriculture – Water Quality Program

Started in Crook County

- LAC suggested that we talk to see if there is some applicable in our area.
 - Zach feels that it would be exempt here because if you have water here you want to use it for irrigation.
- Tim feels like the work period seems rather restricted for central Oregon since we are usually dry from June to November.
 - If it's not fish related, he really wonders again what the work window is and feels it should be more than 30 days.
 - Fish and wildlife biologists came up with those dates, if folks feel they need to do work outside of the established window that can be discussed, depending on location or circumstances it can possibly be adjusted.
- Maria needs to know if this is even applicable for some landowners.
- You don't have to request to be a part of this if you're only removing under 50 cubic yards.
 - Is the removal annually or for a lifetime, for a specific site and how the site is defined?
 - Action item – Brittany will follow up on this and get back to us.
- If it's in an irrigation district, would they be exempt?
 - This must be specifically for drainage not irrigation.
- Action item – Brittany will check and see if tailwater is considered irrigation or drainage.

Board Members and Partners' Reports:

Chris:

- In the middle of contracts right now, ended up with 5 SG initiative contracts, about a million dollars.
- Ended up with 5 IRA range applications, primarily Juniper control as well, SDI was rejuvra applicant, others conifer.
- IRA forest land, using ODF to help fund the TA side of things, going to fund 8 of those total 1.3 million, some still haven't been notified, just received some additional funds.
- 4 irrigation projects in Powell Butte totally about \$400K, working through designs and getting through most of those, most are flood to sprinkle conversions, 6 RPPs some hopefully starting 1st of July totaling 2.4 million, most of these are engineered river projects, it's a lot more work than we thought with all the designs and permits.



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- 12 stewardship applications to work through, deadline to rank those is the end of June.
- Dominic and David going really good helping out, a lot of field work getting done right now. Hiring a bunch more, losing an engineer and hiring a new one.

Maria

- They have a new Program Manager, Kevin Fen.
 - He has been in the program for 7 years, started in his new role in November.
- Expanding in what they do for grant funding, ODA IGA, agriculture water quality support grant, not a lot but it's for agriculture quality work.
- Added some implementation funding to do some restoration.
- They are going out looking for grants to do work with our programs and SWCD.
- Digital reports are being sent in and they're trying to move it to an online platform to give more visibility, if they knew where we started, they would know how far we've come.
- TMDL has a separate water agriculture plan.
 - Applied for funding to help meet the implementation plan, there was one for the Willamette Valley project that was approved.
 - Hearing that maintenance is a big part, a lot of landowners are good with fencing but wondering where the maintenance comes from.
- Starting to do a few strategic implementation things differently, compliance component, 6 years voluntary watershed improvement review, gives them plenty of time to look for opportunities for improvement.
 - Still starting with monitoring and assessments so they'll still be able to show those improvements and assessments but won't have the same regulatory.

Scott

- Just got done with Boots and Roots, 4th graders came to the fairgrounds.
- Pasture questions still coming in, there is a pasture class May 21st.
- New Livestock Committee, Deschutes County May 18th.
- Deschutes County wolf committee has been created; Scott is attending meetings.
- Working on pasture publication, emergency livestock training, attending conference in June to go over the emergency process.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20

Next Monthly Meeting: June 10th, 2024