



District Minutes, December 11, 2023

Board Members Present: Zach Flegel, Gary Bedortha, Marcus Rossi, Jason Dennis

SWCD staff present: Andy Gallagher, Abby Papke

Also present: Jenna Deibel, Chris Mundy, Tim DeBoodt, Thomas Laird (Crook Weed Master)

The following documents were presented (available on request):

- November Minutes
- Project Update
- Profit & Loss
- Administrative specialist job description

Board meeting was called to order by Gary Bedortha at 9:02am.

1 Minutes: *Gary Bedortha motioned to accept minutes as corrected. Jason Dennis 2nd the motion. Minutes passed.*

2 Treasurers' Report: Andy presented the fiscal report. *Jason Dennis motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Marcus Rossi 2nd. Passed unanimously.*

3 SWCD Business:

3.1 Project Report: Andy shared the attached project report with details and maps. Possibly extend project to complete Hampton burn later on in the future. 20,000 acre SSP approved for sage grouse. Possibly hire seasonal tech to complete CCAA inventories – job proposal for March meeting. Waiting on fish screens for Ochoco Fish Passage, also possible maintenance on lower diversion. Planting for camp creek riparian starting today. HB2010 trying to find location, landowners question clear cutting 2000+ acres. Contribution agreement with NRCS.

3.2 Non-Discriminatory Policy Update: Andy presented the new non-discriminatory policy for the district. *Gary Bedortha motioned to accept the Non-Discriminatory Policy Update as part of the policy for the district. Jason Dennis 2nd. Passed unanimously.*

3.3 Ethics Policy Update: Andy presented the new ethics policy for the district. *Jason Dennis motioned to accept the Ethics Policy Update. Marcus Rossi 2nd. Passed unanimously.*

3.4 Administrative Specialist: Priscilla looking to step down. Hire someone to do bookkeeping, event planning, finance responsibility, general administrative duties. Split between SWCD and watershed council. Housed under SWCD. Hire by May. Chris Gannon will present at next watershed council board meeting. *Marcus Rossi motioned to accept the Administrative Specialist position. Gary Bedortha 2nd. Passed unanimously.*

3.5 Vehicle Discussion: How often towing? Pickup is priority. Procurement policy – 3 bids or state bidding process. Not to exceed \$40,000, hope to stay under \$30,000. *Gary Bedortha motioned to adjust pickup budget not to exceed \$40,000 with postponing the side by side discussion until the new fiscal year. Marcus Rossi 2nd. Passed unanimously.*

4 Board Members and Partners Reports:

4.1 NRCS: Farm bill app cut off Nov. 15. \$750,000 for SQI focusing on annual weeds and juniper retreatment. Treated a few thousand acres of rejuvra for the first time last year. \$1.3 million for forestry anywhere in Crook County. Inflation reduction act for outside of two chiefs boundaries. Powell Butte irrigation initiative – shallower soils, 15% water savings, flood to sprinkle, sprinkle to pivot. Lower Crooked RCPP extended for one more year for streambank stabilization. Hired a soil con tech for Crook County. Tentatively hired a partnership position.

4.2 Natural Resources: North Fork Vegetation project comment period closed Dec. 1. Issues with closing public access and gaining access to landlocked BLM. South slope forestry areas and basal areas with thinning. Natural Resource Committee meeting this Wednesday, Dec. 13. 3 open board positions starting Jan. 1. Wolverine proposed to join endangered species list. City has possible power purchaser for biomass power project – identified spot being SMAF’s property on Lamonta, easy to rail in waste.

4.3 Weed Master: Working with Debbie on weed board on EDRR (early detection rapid response). Single plant of purple loosestrife in Crook County. Working on annual grass treatments, using rejuvra and plateau. Next grant in McKay Creek for spotted knapweed, 2 phase project starting next year.

4.4 Jenna Deibel: Teaching at OSU cascades next month.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am