



Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
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2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 11th, 2018, 6:00 PM
Pendleton Convention Center

Call to Order – 6:05 pm

Attendees: Board Members – Colin Hemphill (Chairman), Tim Spratling (Vice Chairman), Tom Straughan (Secretary/Treasurer), Aaron Madison, Gus Wahner; Staff – Kyle Waggoner, Tiffany Schademan, Rachel Nash, Shiloh Simrell; NRCS Heath Hoeft

Presentations:

Ty Meyer From PNWDSA on Farmed Smart - Ty introduced himself and his involvement with Pacific North West Direct Seed Association. He gave some background and history on the organization, how it came to be, some of its main supporters and the goals and mission of the organization and the Farmed Smart program. He highlighted how the program and its goals are farmer driven using local and national resources such as NRCS and SWCDs to implement, measure and audit practices using science-based practices to ensure the achievement of those goals. He explained how precision-based agriculture, among other criteria, is an integral practice that enables a producer to qualify for and become certified in the Farmed Smart program. Ty explained how the rating system works and went over some disqualifiers, such as not using precision Ag, and how the program is dryland Ag focus with emphasis on water quality, economic and environmental sustainability. He then went on to share the benefits the producers that are participating have received from the state of Washington. He concluded with the efforts that are currently being made in Oregon with local and state agencies to achieve similar benefits for the dryland producers of Oregon who choose to participate.

Kyle Waggoner: A Year in Review and Audit – Kyle started his presentation with our mission statement and goals. He explained how we implement our mission through three main areas: Outreach and Education, “Fence posts in the ground” or projects we assist with and fund, and Collaboration. He shared examples of each area and the benefits the outcomes have for our communities such as Watershed field days, working on, submitting and funding grants for projects to improve soil and water quality; many of which this year included livestock water developments, and, opportunities to collaborate with partners on local and regional issues such as the high levels of nitrates in the Hermiston area and working with LUBGWAMA to find a resolution to the issue. Kyle highlighted the funded projects that enabled the District to triple the number of funded projects from last year, double the size of the District to four employees and enabled meeting with and assisting land owners through site visits about every two weeks. Kyle went over the financials and the results of the audit and concluded his presentation by introducing all the board members and staff.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:02PM; Motion by Aaron and 2nd by Tim. Dinner was served following the close of the meeting.

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Anyone who wishes to attend this meeting but needs special accommodations, please telephone the District office 48 hours in advance, at "541-276-8049".