



Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District  
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Pendleton, Oregon  
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[www.umatillacountyswcd.com](http://www.umatillacountyswcd.com)

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 7th, 2019 9:00 AM**  
Mac's Bar and Grill

**Call to Order – 9:01 am**

Attendees: Board Members – Colin Hemphill (Chairman), Tim Spratling (Vice Chairman), Tom Straughn (Secretary/Treasurer), Gus Wahner, Aaron Madison, Berk Davis; Staff – Kyle Waggoner, Tiffany Schademan; NRCS - Nate James; ODA - Tom Demianew

**1) Introductions: None**

**2) Presentations:**

**NRCS:** Nate went over the local work group meeting in January. He reviewed some of the areas discussed and noted that there is still a lack of Landowner participation. NRCS officials are busy at work interpreting the new farm bill and we should start seeing new information on it in the coming months. Nate talked about EQIP and the joint project that is in the works with Tribal, forestry and private landowners to do some precommercial thinning on forest land in the Milton-Freewater/ Millcreek area. There was discussion on Bio-char. The Tribal office did a demo for data on cost and feasibility on Bio-char and Tom mentioned the Klamath Lake area projects that ODA are involved in. Nate will report back with more updates on this in April. Nate also went over the Weston Mountain and Langdon lake area EQIP thinning that is finishing up in the project area and that the deadline for signups is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Nate explained that Shiloh has been working on CRP and has several projects ready when they reopen CRP. In the mean time she will be working on a small grant for a landowner's property.

**ODA:** Tom presented an update on the SIA funding and local area projects. Our District continues to lead the way and ODA and partners are pleased with the progress being made. SIA and LUBGWMA continued funding requests have been submitted. ODA is reviewing the biennial reviews to ensure that the results align with current goals. Tom mentioned that soil health and Direct seed are high priority goals. Tom also gave an overview of the research going into hemp, since it has been legalized on a Federal level, and the interest in and similarities to, organic growing practices here in Oregon. Research may include areas such as cropping, global marketing, pesticide and insecticide use and how to best grow it in Oregon and is being undertaken by OSU.

**3) Activity Reports: Directors/Staff** Kyle briefly summarized staff activities for the last month. He noted that he would have the official reports for the board to review at the March meeting.

**4) Administration:**

- a. December Treasurer's Report - Filed
- b. Annual Meeting Minutes – Filed

**5) Operations:**

- a. Swear-In Elected Directors and Oath of Office:  
Collin (Zone 5), Tim (Zone 2) and Berk (At Large) were sworn into office after reciting the Oath of Office and signing, with Tom signing as the Board authority. Motion to approve by Tom, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron, pass unan.  
Tom made a motion to keep the current officers as they are, Gus 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unan.
- b. Committees – There was discussion on having committees, which committees to have and responsibilities of members. Motion to adopt Personnel and Finance committees: Moved by Colin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron, pass unan.
- c. Appoint – Colin appointed members to the adopted committees as follows:  
Personnel: Tim, Tom and Colin; Finance – Tom, Aaron and Berk. Kyle will write up a summary after each committee meeting to present at board meetings.
- d. Civil Rights Signing – All board members signed the NRCS civil rights agreement and gave them to Nate.
- e. Healthy Soil Training in Pendleton – Following discussion, it was decided that Kyle would review agendas for the trainings, email them to Board members and a decision would be made on a case by case basis.
- f. OCEAN Connect Training – Discussion of who should attend based on maximum benefit, Kyle will attend to represent the district.
- g. WFD Funding Discussion – Kyle reviewed the progress Rachel has made with finding funding for WFD and the lack of funding available because of changes in the OWEB fund this year. She is working with Blue Mountain Land Trust for future opportunities. The board suggested an email would be sent out asking schools to fund their own transportation this year.
- h. NACD Contribution – After discussion, motion to match contribution for the NACD grant for one month salary moved by Tim, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gus, Pass unan.
- i. Business Consultation Services – Kyle will look into and make a list to present of potential services. He will also contact Herb and work with him on a business model for drone flights.
- j. SIA Updates – Kyle gave an update on the progress being made.
- k. Grant Updates – Kyle presented the grants that have been submitted, grants being worked on and current grants and when they end.
- l. Presentation of Personnel and Policy Manual and Business Plan – Will be discussed after meeting is adjourned.
- m. Open Discussion for Business Ideas and General District Direction – After meeting is Adjourned

**Adjourn at 10:35 am** - Motion by Colin - Next Regular Board Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6PM, USDA Service center

**Meeting reopened at 2:11 pm, Adjourned at 2:13 pm:**

Motion to adopt the updated personnel manual by Gus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron, pass unan. Motion to adopt new business plan by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim, pass unan.

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".