



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 6:00 PM

**Call to Order – 6:01 PM. Attendees:** *Board members* - Tim Spratling (Vice Chairman), Gus Wahner, Tom Straughn (Secretary/Treasurer), Aaron Madison; *Staff* – Kyle Waggoner, Tiffany Schademan; *NRCS* – Nate James; *Guests* – Colleen and Josh

- 1) **Introductions of guests:** Colleen and Josh from EOC3 (Eastern Oregon Coalition for Climate Change)
- 2) **Presentations:** **NRCS** - Nate stated that they are still waiting on the rules to come out from the new Farm Bill. EQIP signup deadline has been extended to April 19<sup>th</sup>. There is still no news for CREP.
- 3) **Activity Reports:** Directors/Staff – Each of the directors gave a brief summary of their recent activities.
  - a. Gus attended the Small Farm conference in Corvallis and the “Healthy Soils Healthy Region workshop” events and gave an overview of each, noting that Rachel and Shiloh were at the Healthy soils event and that many industry professionals as well as local land owners were in attendance and participated in discussions about the area. He then went on to brief the board on the Hermiston project with the city, parks and rec and other potential agencies and what they are looking for and are interested in. Additional topics discussed included the upcoming LUBGWMA meeting, the Grazing Conference that Aaron and Rachel will be attending, and winter weather affects on calving, gophers, elk and snow melt. Tim noted that there is a clear and visible difference in snow melt water retention in the fields that are direct seeded verses the traditional or heavy tillage fields in his area.
  - b. Tiffany has met the goals for her NACD grant of 250 contracts and 500 plans. She has been working on the website and she and Kyle explored the possibility of Streamline, but Kyle ultimately decided not to pursue it for cost reasons. Tiffany’s NACD Grant is now complete and they should be announcing the NACD2 recipients after March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. Shiloh has been working on organizing the hard copies of the CREP, CRP and CCRP files in the office. She is working on an OWEB small grant while the CREP program is on hold and has been working with Nate and the Tribes for potential project specific BDA opportunities to assist with future CREP projects. She has several trainings planned for the coming months and has attended the GIS training, “Healthy Soils Healthy Region” and completing Aglearn training.
  - d. Rachel has been working on the SIA; the monitoring was signed off on by DEQ, so she and Kyle were able to begin testing this month. She has had two grants funded within the SIA, is working on two additional grant applications, and completing site visits all within the SIA. Rachel has also been organizing and working on the WFD event. There was some discussion about a less than optimal number of students signed up, but the deadline for applications is Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, and we have not heard back from the Grey Family Foundation about that grant. Rachel attended the GIS training, the “Healthy Soils Healthy Region”, and will attend the grazing conference this month.
  - e. Kyle attended the Direct Seed conference and has been working on the policy manual revision as well as the long-range business plan. He also worked on and submitted the NACD2 Admin grant and helped with and attended the local work group NRCS meeting. He has been working with Herb on a fee schedule for drone flying and will be working with landowners to accumulate 200 hrs. of flight time now that the District has the drone. He also worked with Teddy Orr on weed species for possible future drone projects and attended a drone training in Tigard. Kyle also worked with accounting on changes and with ODA on the renegotiation of a focus area in Umatilla county.
- 4) **Administration:**
  - a. January and February Treasurer’s Report - Filed
  - b. February Meeting Minutes – Filed
- 5) **Operations:**
  - a. Personnel Committee Duties – The proposed duties were presented by Kyle. He will present the official duties for the Board’s approval for the April meeting.
  - b. Finance Committee Duties – Kyle also went over proposed duties for the finance committee including signing paychecks, working with DM to find funding sources and salary changes. He also went over inclement weather policy changes. He will present all duties to the board for approval at April’s meeting.
  - c. Farm-to-School (Gus Updates) – Gus gave an update on the project. He went over ideas of what the kitchen/processing facility could be and the interest from the city of Hermiston and several other local organizations in partnering and a business model. He talked about ODA requirements and the obstacles that involving schools would present due to government subsidies and contracts with food vendors. Kyle elaborated on the school restrictions and mentioned that the food hub may be a possible alternative and that he has a meeting scheduled with George Murdock to discuss the food hub.
  - d. OWEB Project Map – Kyle presented the information he was able to obtain for the board from OWEB for the last 20 years of projects in Umatilla county. He is able to display the data in many ways and will be able to utilize this for future opportunity areas as well as including a version with the commissioner’s report in the coming months. Nate said that he can get Kyle the NRCS’s map of projects to compare and look for opportunity areas as well.
  - e. OACD Bylaw Review – Tom went over the changes to the bylaws, including the opening up of board positions to District managers and the change to number and designation of positions with the goal of increased participation from the east side of the state.  
*Motion* to select Tom as representative at the Annual OACD conference – Moved by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gus, pass unan.  
*Motion* to send letter of recommendation for Tom as an At Large Representative position for the OACD – Moved by Gus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron, pass unan.
  - f. Fred Pryor Managing Conflict and Confrontation (\$149) – Training for Kyle approved
  - g. Teaching FAA Part 107 Drone Classes – Kyle presented his proposal on teaching drone flying courses in the area. He gave an overview of his training and will look into hosting and UAS range possibilities.
  - h. Grant Review – Kyle went over the grants that are being worked on and submitted. He has decided to submit the Farmed smart grant this fall, there is not an MOU or agreement in Oregon for the certification yet but it is still a top priority for ODA. There is also an OWEB large grant being worked on, bank stabilization working with DSL and Army corp of engineers. There is more discussion on the food hub, more outreach opportunities, and resubmitting the CIG slow release nitrogen project. Ray Kopacz’s irrigation project grant was also discussed.
- 6) **EOC3:** Colleen and Josh attended and gave a brief summary of the work they do at the Eastern Oregon Coalition for Climate Change, some of the concerns and interests they have and invited everyone to attend the upcoming climate change forums on the third Tuesday of each month at 12pm at Prodigal Son.
  - a. **Adjourn @ 7:58 PM- motion by Gus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom**
  - b. Next Regular Board Meeting April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the USDA Service center