



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 16th, 2018

6:00 PM

USDA Service Center

Call to Order – 6:00 pm

Attendees: Board members - Tom Straughan (Secretary/Treasurer), Gus Wahner, Aaron Madison, Colin Hemphill (Chairman); Staff – Kyle Waggoner, Tiffany Schademan; NRCS –Heath Hoef; ODA – Tom Demianew

1) **Introductions:** None

2) **Presentations:** NRCS – Heath presented: a new Soil Conservationist: Trevor Ward, the advancement and relocation of Stephanie Russo, and an additional SC in the future.

3) **ODA -** Tom Demianew gave an overview of the progress of the SIA with the District, noting that Umatilla county is currently leading the state, and the addition of 3 new SIA's this winter; Harney, Malheur and Baker counties. He discussed the upcoming biennial review with possible changes to the process that ODA is considering implementing. Tom also went over the assistance in Wasco and neighboring counties recovering from wildfires with the assistance of NRCS and cover crops, and the interest ODA has in the PNW Direct Seed Association Farm Smart Certification program for here in Oregon.

4) **Activity Reports: Directors/Staff -** Tiffany briefly summarized her activities, mostly CSP related items including renewals, current contracts and form/documentation gathering and tracking, posting to Facebook and website content, and continuing EQIP processing. Kyle reviewed remaining reports. Rachel has been utilizing the SIA QAPP to complete the SAP and proposal. She has also been exploring alternate funding opportunities for watershed field days and writing and submitting grant proposals to potential funding sources. Shiloh has been busy with her Conservation Planner certification and related trainings such as Farm Smart, working towards meeting the goals of her grant despite a delay and backlog of Cultural Resource requests, and is serving three counties with CREP and site visits. Kyle and Shiloh both participated in the soil health field day presented by Nick Sirovatka and NRCS. Kyle has been actively working on his Drone certification, which he passed, and researching options for models and types of drones as well as potential funding and income sources. He also is participating in OCEAN activities, updating the policies and procedures, and helped judge the FFA soil health day. The first coffee meeting was productive, and Tom Demianew suggested inviting industry professionals to meet and greet in the future to benefit the district and its employees.

5) **Administration:**

- a. September Treasurer's Report - Filed
- b. September BOD Meeting Minutes - Filed

6) **Operations:**

- a. District Shirts/Hats – Kyle gave a rundown of shirt and hat options. Most board members agreed hats would be good for visibility and will revisit the shirts at a later date.
- b. Zone 3 Director Recruitment –Elections were discussed and the options if the position is not filled.
- c. Focus Area: Decision on Umatilla – A single focus area at Couse creek while the SIA is being implemented is the best option.
- d. NRCS/OWEB Farm Bill Admin Assistant Grant – Two grants are available to the District, one through the current NACD grant position as an extension and a second opportunity through a new grant from OWEB. Discussion of benefits and options for one or both grants. Kyle will follow up with Nate and report back next meeting.
- e. NACD Dues – Motion to pay dues (\$100) moved by Colin, 2nd by Tom, pass unan.
- f. SIA Updates – Rachel and Kyle are hard at work on site visits with 50% of the visits resulting in projects with several more in progress.
- g. Drone Purchase – Kyle outlined the details of the drone purchase, options that would best benefit the District and discussed potential income sources for projects of a quadcopter drone if purchased using savings. Motion to purchase drone by Tom, 2nd by Aaron, pass unan. Kyle also went over the fixed wing drone grant opportunity in early 2019.
- h. OACD Annual meeting – Tom Straughan is attending and will represent the District.
- i. Annual Meeting Speaker – Suggestions were made and discussed, Kyle will contact potential speakers based on Board recommendations. (Farm Smart & Drone Ed.)
- j. Grant Updates – Current grants, projects and growth reviewed. Kyle is attending the Tiicham Conservation District meeting in hopes of future collaboration.

Adjourn – 7:40 PM: Motion by Colin, 2nd by Tom. Next Regular Board Meeting November 20th, 2018