

Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District
 Regular Monthly Meeting
 331 E Cottage Park Drive Suite 1B, Cave Junction, OR 97523/ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order March 23, 2023 by William Reid, Chairman at 6:00 pm

ATTENDED IN PERSON ATTENDED VIA ZOOM ABSENT

William Reid	Jim Gurley	Gene Merrill (WC)
Katrina Poydack	Cheryl Nelson Staff	Joy McEwen (WC)
Rhett Nelsen	Kevin O'Brien (WC)	Patty Downing (WC)
Bob Webb		Carol Crawford (WC)
Don Young (WC)		Marcy Sowa
Janice Denney (WC)		Bob Schmidt
Arlyse DeLoyola Staff		
John Bellville Staff		
Roger Brandt Guest		

SCRIBE

Notes were taken by Arlyse DeLoyola

- **Minutes:** The minutes of the February meeting were presented to the Board for review.
 - **Jim Gurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting.**
 - **Rhett Nelsen seconded the motion.**
 - **The motion passed without dissent.**

- **Financials:** The financial reports were presented for review by the Board.
 - **Rhett Nelsen made a motion to accept the Financial Reports as presented.**
 - **Katrina Poydack seconded the motion.**
 - **Discussion was held.**
 - **The motion passed without dissent.**

OLD BUSINESS

- **Coffee & Quail:**
 Bill Reid reported that it looked like the Coffee & Quail event was a success. He was very disappointed in the turnout by Board members, with just himself from the district and two Council members present along with three staff.

- **Water Quality Monitoring:**
 John Bellville gave a report on some of the findings from the September through December Water Quality Monitoring samplings. He advised that the District was in the process of hiring a temporary Sampling technician through a temp agency and that he and Kevin had interviewed a promising candidate that day. John is working on a training manual for the 21 sites and will have it finished for the

April samplings. He also stated that he plans to build an online dashboard for results so that they can be viewed by interested parties.
Jim Curley suggested that the District look into purchasing some of the laboratory equipment for sample analysis, as it might be more cost-effective that paying Grants Pass Water Labs. John said he would look in to that possibility.

• Owl III report and request:

John asked everyone to give their opinion on the new video conferencing equipment, approved at the last meeting and in use for this one. He then proposed that the District go in 50% for another unit with the Council so that staff could check one out and take it to meetings and events offsite.

- Rhett Nelsen made a motion to purchase another OWL III device with the Council

- Katrina Poydack seconded the motion.

- The motion passed without dissent.

• More Coffee & Quail

Cheryl Nelson joined the meeting via Zoom and gave her report on Coffee & Quail, also asking for input for future community engagement events.

• Personnel Manual/Employee Handbook

Bill asked Arlyse for a report on the progress of re-writing the manual. A meeting was held Monday and the changes were reviewed by the Personnel Committee, pending confirmation by Special Districts Association of Oregon. Once any questions are answered, the manual will be sent for review by their team and once approved, can be published.

NEW BUSINESS

• Community Wildfire Defense Grant

John announced that the District has just received a Community Wildfire Defense Grant in the amount of \$13,000, which will provide \$96,504 in contracted fuels reduction work, two bio-char kilns and some project management funds. An article that appeared in the national Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) newsletter this week was shared with the Board.

• Old Stage Park

Roger Brandt was introduced to ask the District for a letter of support toward his proposed grant to develop Old Stage Park. Roger revealed the plans for the community park and explained it would be funded through Oregon State Parks & Recreation with Lottery dollars. The proposal was well received by the Board.
Rhett Nelsen made a motion to provide a letter of support for the proposed development of the park.

- Katrina Poydack seconded the motion.

- Discussion was held.

- The motion passed unanimously.

● Staff Reports:

○ John Bellville

- John reviewed his written report. He and Kevin will both present to the Josephine County Commissioners next week. The District has received a \$23,333.33 grant from Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) for potential technical work with the County on rehabilitation of abandoned cannabis grows.
- He mentioned he was helping with a Council grant request to the Four Way Foundation for the purchase of a drone for media production.
- Also in the works is a Partnership Technical Assistance grant which would provide dollars for strategic planning for the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG) pointing out that the IVFROG is now in the "storming" phase of their development as a cohort and moving into strategic planning.
- John had a brief update meeting with mark Grendemer, Project Manager for Oregon Water Enhancement Board on our Stakeholder Engagement grant and agreed to have regular check-ins as the project continues.
- John and Kevin continue to work closely planning for future Water Quality Monitoring grants.

○ Cheryl Nelson

- Cheryl reviewed her report and announced that on April 8th (Saturday) there will be a Volunteer Fair event, hosted at the High School which is intended to connect volunteers with local non-profits and offer breakout sessions for the public as well as organizations. She encouraged board members to attend and plans to have a Stream Team table at the event.
- Arlyse had nothing to add to her written report.

● Public Comment

- Kevin O'Brien attended a portion of a meeting hosted by Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District this evening regarding the Rogue Basin pesticide Stewardship Program. He found it very interesting and will be able to access a recording of the meeting if anyone is interested.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on April 27th at 6:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

APPROVED MINUTES: *W. Reed*

DATE: *4-28-23*