

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order Thursday June 24,2021 by Bill Reid, Chairman at 6:04 pm

LIVE ATTENDEES

ZOOM ATTENDEES

ABSENTEES

Bill Reid	Tracey Reed (Staff)	Joy McEwen (WC)
Janice Denney (WC)	Jim Gurley	Don Young (WC)
Katrina Poydack	Gene Merrill (WC)	Rhett Nelsen
Bob Webb		Alex Ponder (WC)
Janice Denney (WC)		
Bob Schmidt		
Marcy Sowa		
Carol Crawford (WC)		
Patty Downing (WC)		
Kevin O'Brien (Staff)		
Arlyse DeLoyola (Staff)		

SCRIBE

Notes were taken by Arlyse DeLoyola

- **Minutes:** The minutes from the April meeting were presented to the Board for review.
 - **Bob Webb made a motion to approve the minutes for April.**
 - **Bob Schmidt seconded that motion.**
 - **The motion carried without dissent.**
- **Financials:** The Financial Reports from July 1, 2020– May 31,2021 were presented to the Board for review.
 - **Bob Schmidt made a motion to accept the financial reports.**
 - **Bob Webb seconded that motion.**
 - **The motion carried without dissent.**

OLD BUSINESS

- **White Ditch Contract meeting results**
Tracey reported on the meeting with the water rights examiner/surveyor. He will provide some of the information needed to the engineer, whose work may be scaled back until the landowners can form some sort of legal association prior to any real design work being done. She also stated she had met with several landowners along with representatives from NRCS. She and Angie are planning to ask the funders to change the focus of the rest of the work to helping the landowners organize.
- **Water Quality Subcommittee-** report tabled to after discussion with guest speaker.

GUEST SPEAKER

- Josephine County Commissioner, Darin Fowler was introduced to the attendees. He was in attendance to discuss water concerns around the many illegal cannabis grows in our watershed. He was recently in a small plane, surveying the area and was shocked at the escalation of grows and the many greenhouses that

have sprouted up. He mentioned Lily Morgan's hard work in fighting for HB3000 to pass the state legislature. He said this would double the funding to Josephine County for enforcement and bring some of the marijuana tax dollars to where the crop is produced, rather than just where it is sold.

He is also proposing an additional fee for out-of-state landowners of \$180 per property per year. He is working toward giving Code Enforcement the authority to issue citations.

Members of the audience posed the question, "What can we do to fix these issues?" His response was to keep calling Code Enforcement, the JMET team and emailing commissioners and legislators. He said we "have Salem's ear now" so we need to keep reporting. He also encouraged ZOOM attendance of the County Commission meetings and making public comments at those meetings. Public comment drives change. He gave his email out for our group to stay in touch.

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

- **Water Subcommittee**

A report on the activity of the Water Subcommittee of the watershed Council was given. Reporters were Marcy Sowa and Patty Downing. (report is part of the official minutes) Discussion was held. Tracey responded that she has been completely forthcoming, and her draft of the proposed job posting was created without input from any potential candidates. She stated that parts of the report were inaccurate. Chairman Reid reminded all that we must avoid bias and he stated that he will be involved in any hiring process. Jim Gurley pointed out that cannabis actually requires less water than alfalfa, so we must be careful not to demonize farmers of this legal crop. Marcy agreed we need to find out "who is who" for enforcement of the laws.

Commissioner Fowler was excused from the meeting with thanks.

- **Farmer's Market**

The water subcommittee suggested that we table at the Farmer's market this summer. Arlyse created a volunteer schedule which was passed around. The first scheduled event is July 9th. Staff will work on preparing for the event.

- **A motion was made by Bob Webb to hire a community organizer, posting the job for a minimum of ten (10) business days which can be extended by the board of directors.**
- **Bob Schmidt seconded the motion.**
- **Discussion was held.**
- **The motion was approved without dissent.**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Capacity Budget 2021-2022**

- Discussion on the Capacity Budget for next year was held.
- **A motion was made by Katrina Poydack to approve the Capacity Budget**
- **That motion was seconded by Marcy Sowa**
- **The motion was approved without dissent.**
- The annual work plan was presented by Tracey Reed and discussed.
- **A motion was made by Bob Webb to approve the Annual Work Plan**
- **The motion was seconded by Bob Schmidt**
- **The motion passed without dissent.**
- Some on the board asked for a list of acronym definitions. Tracey said she would compile one for them and would be mindful to define them when reporting. Members also commented on the meeting space in the office being too small. Patty suggested we look not Siskiyou Clinic as an option.

CONTINUING

- **Staff and partnering agency reports were presented to the board:**

Tracey reviewed her report, mentioning again the eight site visits for White Ditch and her meetings with NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and OWRD (Oregon Water Resource Department)

Arlyse reviewed her report and stated that Brewster accounting has been retained for the review, but a Report in Lieu of audit is all that will need to be done and that deadline is September 28th.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on August 26 at 6:00 PM at the Illinois Valley SWCD Office and via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

APPROVED MINUTES: William J Reid

DATE: 11-17-21

