

Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2024

LIVE ATTENDEES	ZOOM ATTENDEES	ABSENTEES
Bill Reid WR	Katrina Poydack	Bob Schmidt
Jim Gurley	Kevin O'Brien IVWC	Marcy Sowa
Rhett Nelsen	Heather Medina-Sauceda NRCS	
Bob Webb		
Janice Denney (IVWC)		
Carol Crawford (IVWC)		
John Bellville-Staff		
Arlyse DeLoyola- Staff		
Kathy Mechling		

SCRIBE

Notes were taken by Arlyse DeLoyola

Before a quorum arrived and the meeting was called to order, Heather Medina-Sauceda gave an update on NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) happenings. They are in the process of hiring David Ferguson's replacement, but it could still be a few months before that happens. David is now in Ohio. NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) now has a grant available for Outreach and Planning along with NRCS. Next year she expects more money to be made available for fuels reduction and irrigation projects. Kevin asked if there was ever a District Conservationist for Josephine and Jackson Counties combined. There was once an office in Josephine County she explained and this would be something to speak with the new State Conservationist, Greg Becker about.

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm by Chairman Reid.

- **Minutes:** The minutes from the July meeting were presented to the Board for review.
 - **Jim Gurley made a motion to approve the minutes for July.**
 - **Rhett Nelsen seconded the motion.**
 - **The motion carried.**

- **Financials:** The Financial Reports from July 2024 were presented to the Board for review.
 - **Jim Gurley made a motion to accept the financial reports.**
 - **Rhett Nelsen seconded that motion.**
 - **The motion carried without dissent.**

OLD BUSINESS

- **Ag Water Quality**
 John reported that the team will be sampling through December on what's left of the ODA Ag Water Quality Grant and a portion of the upcoming SIA Grant. He will meet with Maelagh tomorrow to discuss deployment of temperature monitors and how to keep up on data management. John will be meeting with Jen Ambrose in October who will help to build a functional dashboard which will enable ease of access to IVSWCD WQM data.

We are still moving into the Clear creek lab and figuring out what makes sense for us as far as outsourcing vs. in-house lab work.

We will be working with OSU on a project to determine the impact of wildfire on drinking water quality.

The 2024 SIA will begin September 1st and the sites chosen by ODA (Oregon Department of Agriculture) are Kerby Main Stem, McMullen Creek, Upper, Lower, and South Deer Creek.

Our Passive Water Quality Monitoring Grant was rated number 2 for funding in the state and we should be hearing whether that grant is funded in late-October.

Heather Medina-Sauceda added that with an SIA in the District, NRCS has developed a conservation implementation strategy to coincide with SIAs. This could be discussed at the Local Working Group meeting for FY26, since the deadline for FY25 is passed.

- **Set Committee Meeting for the 75th Anniversary Celebration**

The meeting was set for September 17th at 3:00pm.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Bio Char Kiln Location**

Our kilns are currently stored at Wilson Bio-Char and are occasionally being used. Ideas to make them identifiable as IVSWCD property were suggested.

- **A motion was made by Bob Webb to move one kiln to his property and one to Janice Denney's property for safekeeping at this time.**
- **Rhett Nelsen seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed with Katrina Poydack abstaining.**

- **District Manager Training Opportunities**

John told the board that his Conservation Planner Training requires some in-person training and that the next one in the Northwest was September 23-26 in Pend Oreille, Idaho. He asked that the board consider sending him to this. The cost would be the flight, transportation to Pend Oreille from Spokane, and lodging. The training is free.

- **A motion was made by Rhett Nelsen to send John to the NRCS Conservation Planner Training in Pend Oreille, Idaho next month.**
- **Bob Webb seconded the motion.**
- **Discussion was held.**
- **The motion passed.**

The OACD Annual Conference in Hood River will be held October 14-16. The cost is \$350 plus hotel and travel. Bob Webb mentioned he is going because he is on their board and John could ride with him to save cost.

- **Rhett Nelsen made a motion to authorize up to \$1000 for John to attend the OACD Conference, traveling with Bob Webb.**
- **Jim Gurley seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed with Bob Webb abstaining.**

- **Food Resilience**

Bob Webb introduced the subject stating that if everyone grew a garden, we could feed the population. The IV has the potential for producing food- it would be a lot of work, but we could do better than we are currently.

Rhett Nelsen gave his stance on the subject as a farmer who is consistently undercut. This led to a lively discussion on farming in the valley and a consensus that food resilience should be written into our long-range plan.

John noted that he had received a letter from Fungi Perfecti (Paul Stamets' company) that stated every area should be growing mushrooms.

Bill closed the discussion stating that our soils cannot compete with those in the Willamette Valley. We once had the largest dairy operation in the state, but now the valley has become gentrified.

CONTINUING

- **Staff Reports:**

John reviewed his report. The SIA will begin September 1st and focus on the North Valley.

He has been taking a HAZWOPER course so that once we are ready to start our initial clean-up of a cannabis site, he will have the minimum qualifications to legally proceed.

As part of the outreach portion of the Cannabis Clean-up guide project, we will staff a booth at the Halloween Festival.

We are continuing talks in preparation for work with the US Forest Service on the 2025-2028 Smith River Seed Collection and Weed Abatement project.

Arlyse- reminded everyone that election deadline is looming so be sure and get paperwork filed. Bios will not only help folks know who you are as a candidate, but who the SWCD is as well, so preparing a bio is equally important.

- **Partnering Agency Reports:**

Kevin O'Brien had nothing to add.

Public Comment:

Janice asked if anyone knew of oversight on the heavy equipment rolling through the ponds at the solar farm build on Laurel and Cave Highway. Bill suggested she talk to the newspaper. Several mentioned that those ponds were man-made and were still there.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

APPROVED MINUTES: William Reid

DATE: 10-24-2024