

Old Business – Jordan updated the group on the **Odell Watershed Strategic Implementation Area (SIA)** effort. The open house was rescheduled from February 8th to February 21st due to weather. The turnout was great – about 35 landowners showed up. ODA gave a lot of great information about the history of the SIA program and some of their projects around the state, but did not talk about the Odell Watershed or provide a summary of their evaluation results as part of their presentation. Jordan talked briefly at the open house about SWCD services. After the presentation, landowners were able to meet individually with ODA staff to see how their property ranked. Jordan made contact with 6-8 landowners and lined up site visits with 3 of them, including the two landowners whose properties were ranked with “significant” concerns. ODA will send a letter to the landowners who were ranked with “moderate” and “low” concerns (since the two “significants” have already reached out to the SWCD following the event). The letters outline steps they can/must take to rectify the natural resource concerns on their property. ODA sent the draft letters to Jordan for review, and need a response tomorrow (March 3). Jordan shared the draft letters, with her edits, and asked the board to provide her feedback by the next morning. Jordan and Cindy will put together a grant proposal this month for projects within the SIA for the April deadline. She and the board members who attended will also provide feedback to ODA regarding the open house process.

Megan updated the group on the **plant sale**, which will be held April 7th and 8th. Sales are down from last year, most likely due to the weather, but are picking up now that the snow is melting. There is some concern that we will not be able to get the conifers we have ordered in time for the plant sale since they are still under snow in Parkdale. Jeff from Lava Nursery said that the earliest he may be able to lift them is the end of March. Megan solicited board members to volunteer during the plant sale and many agreed to help.

Cindy provided an update on **the Neal Creek Restoration Project**. She received two bids for the project design; one from Waterways Consulting out of Portland, OR, and one from Interfluve out of Hood River. After meeting with Blayne from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) to review the proposals, they decided to award the contract to Interfluve. Bill Norris will be the lead engineer and Mike Brunfelt will be the lead hydrologist on the project. The timeline for the project will be contingent on snow melting, and due to this, it may not happen this summer. Rick moved and Larry seconded to authorize the Interfluve contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Cindy also briefly mentioned that both OWRD and OWEB recommended the **Waterbank Feasibility Study** for funding, so that project will most likely go forward.

New Business – Jordan and Cindy reviewed **spring grant proposals, deadlines and assignments**. They have decided not to develop a **Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS)** for the Odell SIA due to the limited need and as not to compete with EFID. Cindy is developing a **CIS for EFID On-Farm Irrigation** (due March 17). EFID has already gathered much of the necessary information and has received interest from about 40 landowners (plus several more from Mt. Hood ID). Jordan may write the **Title II** proposal for garlic mustard project in 2018, but has not heard if and when this proposal is due. Rick is skeptical that there will be funding available. Jordan also heard that about \$20,000 may be available from ODA to continue the garlic mustard work in 2018. She was unsure if that funding will come through. Cindy will take the lead on re-submitting the **OWRD** proposal for the **MFID Coe Branch Pipeline** project (due April 5). Jordan and Cindy will work together on the **ODA SIA** grant proposal (due April 17). They will focus on the two sites ranked as “significant” by ODA. Any other projects that come out of the Odell SIA process will be lumped into a large OWEB grant, small grants, or other assistance programs. Cindy will take the lead on the **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) pre-proposal** (due April 21). She will go for a regional pool and ask for \$2-3 million to go toward the DID distribution pipeline project, EFID Eastside Lateral Pipeline project, and on-farm irrigation upgrades. Cindy may need to resubmit the Neal Creek Restoration **OWEB** application once we find out whether or not the Neal Creek Project was funded. Finally, Cindy plans to put together a **FIP – OWEB Capacity Grant** proposal (due June 12) for the HRWG to increase partnership capacity.

Brian explained that Anne and Jordan have proposed closing the current **money market account**. It was set up at a different time than the checking account through US Bank and has a separate EIN, so the two accounts are not connected. Anne has spent a lot of time trying to get the two accounts linked, but it is very difficult. There is \$69,112.99 in the account, and in the last year it has accrued about \$3.50 in interest. Larry moved and Cindy seconded to close the money market account, put \$50,000 into a new CD, and the remainder into the checking account. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian and Jordan updated the group on the **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts’ (OACD)** new strategic plan.

An executive summary has been developed from work sessions that Jordan attended during the OACD business meeting last fall. The executive summary included recommendations like reevaluating the dues structure, providing scholarships for districts to attend the OACD meetings, and open seats on the OACD board, among other things. Jordan is optimistic that this new strategic plan will make the SWCD's relationship with OACD more meaningful. She will share the draft with the board.

Carly has been busy with EQIP applications, including mailing out application packets, making sure they were complete by the cut-off date, getting signatures, and uploading them for obligation. The proposals are for irrigation upgrades in MFID, air quality improvements and a few high tunnels. She assisted Kris in trying to secure NRCS soils and irrigation publications in Spanish for the upcoming IWM workshop, and assisted Mt. Hood ID in getting their patron letters/information collected and back to Cindy for collaboration in the drafting of the CIS for the 2018 EQIP funding.

Megan finished the FID temperature report and is preparing for this year's monitoring season. She held the steelhead fishing class for 11 attendees. Upcoming field series classes will be a forestry tour in June and a geology tour in September. She has been trying to troubleshoot website issues unsuccessfully.

Cindy finalized the 2017-19 Watershed Group work plan. At the February HRWG meeting Chris Frans from the Corps of Engineers gave a presentation about the future of the watershed in relation to glacier melt and stream flow. There will be significantly less water by the end of the century. She met with the County at the Evans Creek-Hutson Dr. project site and helped develop an on-site wetland mitigation plan to help keep that project moving along while staying on budget. She had an informal meeting with Columbia Riverkeeper to talk about their volunteer water monitoring efforts. She also talked to John Roberts at Hood River County about budgeting needs for next year.

Jordan continued to work with ODA on Odell SIA process. She also worked on the upcoming IWM trainings, including giving a presentation at the winter hort. meeting on February 10th, calling irrigation district managers and Bryant Pipe to encourage their participation in the Spanish language IWM training, and meeting with Kris and Steve C. to review plans for the winter/spring workshops. She also hired and began training Kris's temporary replacement, Michelle.

Cindy C., Rick, Larry and John had nothing to report.

Chuck reported that CTWS are acclimating juvenile fish at Moving Falls, and that the spring Chinook eggs from Parkdale are now ponded and eating constantly.

Brian attended the Farm Bureau/ODFW upper valley elk meeting. There are a lot of elk in the valley and their population is increasing. There has been some money committed from landowners, ODFW and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to put collars on some of the elk to track them. He reported that EFID has just started cleaning canals as the snow thaws. He also attended the Pear Research Review meeting in Hood River.

Permits – None of note.

Other – The next meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 6th at the OSU Extension office meeting room.

Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Consent agenda moved, seconded and approved.
- ✓ Moved, seconded and approved to authorize the contract with Interfluve for the Neal Creek Restoration project.
- ✓ Moved, seconded and approved to close the money market account, put \$50,000 into a new CD, and the remainder into the checking account.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Byrne, Conservation Technician

Approved at the _____ meeting of the Hood River SWCD.

John Joyer, Secretary