

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District  
Minutes from January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Andrew Halliday (zoom), and Ben Saur  
Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling  
District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel and Carly Heron  
Visitors- Chal Oats, Annie Alsheimer, Danielle Craig  
*\*Note January's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room.*

The group introduced themselves for the visitors.

Ben was sworn into the **Zone 3 Director**. He read and signed the oath of office. The group thanked Ben for continuing to serve on the board.

Heather reviewed the **board positions** and their roles. Ben moved and Andrew seconded to nominate Andrew to serve as the secretary/treasurer, Pete to serve as the vice chair, and Brian to serve as board chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian moved and Ben seconded to nominate Chuck Gehling and Richard Larson to serve as **associate board members**. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consent agenda** –Ben moved, and Andrew seconded:

- To approve the minutes of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, as written.
- To accept the December 2022 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$191,218.58. Income of \$71,217.49 included: \$22,568.63 from ODA for district support, \$38,956.50 from ODA for the Irrigation Assessment Project, \$7,856.83 from plant sale preorders, and \$1,835.53 for reimbursed expenses from the HRWG.
- Expenses were those authorized at the December meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5294-5303 and bank transfers to Pacific Office Automation, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid                      January 5, 2023

Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$9,444.57
5294	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2022 rate increase)	\$1,097.37
5295	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Google, meeting supplies	\$143.37
5296	Century Link	Office phone service	\$185.60
5297	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$32.13
5298	Andrew Spaeth	DEQ Smoke Management Project work	\$3,850.00
5299	Columbia Gorge news	Annual Mtg notice	\$37.13
5300	Mt Adams Resource Stewards	2 chipping days - DEQ smoke mgmt	\$7,000.00
5301	Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers	Annual Report mailing	\$391.54
5302	Hood River Watershed Group	West Fork @ Jones & Red Hill post project funds (\$2,500) CTWS FY22 contract-HRWG Support (\$9,931.48)	\$12,431.48
5303	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice # 784040	\$9.96

EP	OR Dept of Revenue	tax penalty payment for late payment on Sep 30 taxes due	\$50.40
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$64.76
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$537.80
		<b>Total</b>	\$35,349.55

The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business** – Heather reported that the district was awarded \$125,900 from the **Oregon State Fire Marshal** to do defensible space and wildfire mitigation work in Hood River County. There are still a lot of outstanding questions on when and how the money can be spent. Heather will meet with Simone Cordery-Cotter from the OSFM and other partners to figure out logistics. Heather will also need to figure out staff capacity to get the work done. Heather explained some options for expanding capacity. She will update the group after conversations with partners. Heather recommends signing the grant agreement when it comes. Chuck expressed support for the program and concerns over expanded development into the wild land interface. The group discussed firewise practices and state programs. The group was supportive.

Heather reported on the progress with the logo designer Melissa Delzio. Melissa developed four different **logo designs** with very different styles. Heather reviewed them and the group discussed. Heather and Kris will take the feedback back to Melissa to rework some of the options.

Heather reported that she would like to convene a **finance committee** to discuss salaries, pay raises, salary ranges for the positions, and a health care stipend. Andrew, Pete, and Heather will form the committee and discuss options and present them to the group. The group was supportive.

#### **New Business –**

Ben moved and Brian seconded to approve Resolution 22-23\_1 to hold the next **Annual Meeting** on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The motion passed unanimously. Heather will set the meeting schedule and have it for the board to review next month.

Heather presented a **slide show** of the work accomplished in the last fiscal year. She presented slides on the budget, landowner technical assistance, OWEB small grants, the PSP program, pesticide education workshops, DEQ smoke mitigation work, groundwater monitoring, NRCS updates, riparian planting program, garlic mustard, weed work, and the plant sale. She thanked the board and associates for serving and helping the district.

#### **Informational Reports –**

**Carly** reported that she took some vacation time this month but has been busy with various meetings, applications, and contracts. NRCS will likely have another round of sign-ups this spring. The Local Working Group Meeting will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm at the USFS office in Parkdale. NRCS interviewed candidates to replace the Soil Conservationist position but have been unable to fill the position. Carly is working to finalize the Forestry CIS that Angel started before she left. She also reported that her application to the NRCS WaterSMART program for irrigation improvements in MFID was ranked highly, but funding had not yet been awarded.

**Kris** reported that she was out sick for two weeks and took some vacation time over the holidays. She reported the plant sale is going well and things are beginning to sell out. She also hosted a grower meeting

to ask growers what educational opportunities are missing and what would they like to have here in the mid-Columbia region.

**Heather** said that she hosted the Ag Water Quality Plan biennial review with ODA and reported a successful meeting. OACD is looking for a new Executive director. She is participating in the OWEB rule advisory committee to help develop new climate change requirements in grant applications.

**Directors' reports –**

**Andrew** reported that he attended the grower meeting Kris mentioned and expressed appreciation for the effort.

**Chuck** thanked Heather for sending on the OACD notice that contained information on statewide funding recipients.

**Ben** reported that he lost multiple trees in the storm.

**Brian** reported that EFID was awarded funding for piping projects and the Eastside Lateral Pipeline project will go out to bid. He has also began pruning in the orchard.

**Permits** –none of note

The next meeting will be on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4 p.m. held at the OSU extension office.

**Summary of Actions Taken:**

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to nominate Andrew to serve as the secretary/treasurer, Pete to serve as the vice chair, and Brian to serve as board chair.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to nominate Chuck Gehling and Richard Larson to serve as associate board members.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved Resolution 22-23\_1 to set the next Annual Meeting for January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Specialist

Approved at the February 2nd, 2023 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

