

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from April 4th, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Pete Siragusa, Annie Alsheimer (zoom), and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Brittany Welsh, Carly Heron (NRCS)

Visitors- Lissa Beihn with FSA (zoom)

**Note April's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room with an online option.*

Consent agenda – Pete moved, and Ben seconded:

- To approve the minutes of March 7th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the March 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of March 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$292,970.96**. Income of \$14,464.62 included \$2,517.02 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG and the Connect conference, \$8,250.00 from the NACD TA Grant, \$1,261.95 from workshop fees, and \$2,288.01 from the tree/plant sale.
- Expenses were those authorized at the March meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5452-5462 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid April 4, 2024

Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,370.94
5452	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,130.29
5453	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom	\$48.99
5454	Century Link	Office phone service	\$205.59
5455	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$660.76
5456	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$381.96
5457	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$36.85
5458	Champoeg Nursery	plants for plant sale	\$5,707.25
5459	WA Association of Conservation Districts	plants for plant sale	\$1,324.85
5460	Pine Grove grange	rental fee for WPS class	\$100.00
5461	Brent Barkley	website redesign final payment	\$2,940.00
5462	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #081439	\$39.51
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$29,435.10

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Heather reported that the HRSWCD will be subcontracting with the Oregon Department of Forestry for the mobile chipping program. It outlines 10 days of chipping and the contract will go through 2025.

There is a payment limit set within the agreement. Ben moved and Pete seconded signing the intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry. The motion passed unanimously.

Heather reported that she signed a letter of engagement with the new auditor Sensiba from Bend. The letter includes terms and conditions, fee schedules, and scope of work for both parties. Heather would like to revisit the HRSWCD policies and make updates. The group was supportive.

Heather mentioned that all of the board members have seen the Conservation Technician job description and the job will get posted next week. The group was supportive.

New Business:

Heather reported that the board positions for Zone 1, held by Pete, Zone 2 held by Brian, At-Large 1 held by Andrew, and At-Large 2 held by Annie will be on the ballot in November.

Heather mentioned that ODA will have a training on Public Meeting Law if anyone is interested.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that EQIP applications have been sent out for review and signatures. She will present at the Spanish language wildfire awareness meeting on May 9th and utilize the NRCS interpretation services. She is looking to apply for another WaterSMART grant for the EFID. The Air quality smudge pot program will be ending and the focus will shift to grinding and chipping.

Kris reported that she presented at the American Association of Pesticide Control Officials annual conference in Washington DC. She is continuing to work hard on improving the administration of the Private applicators license exam and the exam itself. She attended the OWEB FIP interview in Salem with the rest of the partnership, it seemed to be well received and the partnership ranked number one for funding. She is preparing for the prelicense review class and exam retake opportunity with Leo Garcia on the 24th and 25th. Staff just finished packing for the Plant Sale and could use some help tomorrow at the sale days handing out orders. Pete agreed to help. She has been working to finalize the website and has been working on small grant completions and applications with Brittany.

Heather reported that she met with the county to discuss their temperature TMDL implementation efforts. She participated in a seed exchange event at the Rockford Grange and promoted the plant sale and mobile chipping. She also helped to facilitate the Backyard Fruit tree class at the Master Gardeners, taught by Ashley Thompson. She attended the OACD board meeting and has been working on the website. She met with Ed Salminen and the Irrigation District managers to discuss the irrigation system mapping.

Directors' reports –

Annie reported being busy with work and attended a meeting in Wenatchee on tire dust toxicity.

Pete reported that FID has a new District Manager, Alexis Vaivoda, to replace Les Perkins. She started this week. Kingsley reservoir is full and is in need of two more screens. Pete reported that pears are about 10-14 days behind cherries and reported cold damage.

Chuck attended the OWEB FIP partners interview in Salem and reported that it went well. He reported that it was interesting to see other groups present. He has continued working with Parks on the trail system and that there are community garden plots available.

Ben has been busy building a deer fence on a piece of leased land for new growing space. He got the greenhouse covered and has been busy with other farm tasks.

Chal reported being busy with on-farm operations and sprays.

Brian reported EFID has continued work on their pipelines and two sub-laterals have been completed. EFID is continuing to work on the monitoring and control systems.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 2nd at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

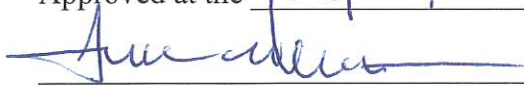
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to sign the intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager

Approved at the May 2nd, 2024 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

