

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from May 2nd, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Andrew Halliday, Annie Alsheimer, and Ben Saur (zoom)

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates

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

Visitors- Lissa Beihn with FSA (zoom)

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

Lissa reminded the group to report loss as soon as people notice it as well as update their acreage reports. The OSU preharvest tour will be on June 7th and the Tree Assistance Program can help growers alleviate loss. The group thanked Lissa for coming.

Consent agenda – Andrew moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of April 4th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the April 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of April 30th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$274,135.24**. Income of \$11,074.33 included \$3,824.16 from workshop fees, \$732.42 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG, and \$6,517.75 from the tree/plant sale.
- Expenses were those authorized at the April meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5463-5474 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid

May 2, 2024

Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,497.06
5463	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5464	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, food for WPS workshop, QB annual sub., bluehost, job posting	\$2,017.92
5465	Century Link	Office phone service	\$215.32
5466	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$2,168.04
5467	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$3,700.12
5468	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$84.46
5469	Lava Nursery	plants for plant sale	\$1,353.00
5470	Mikel Lon DeHart	small grant #14-24-003 final payment	\$4,583.00
5471	Rancho Paz LLC	small grant #14-24-004 final payment	\$13,454.00
5472	Lake Taco	food for Spanish wildfire workshop (NACD)	\$3,292.50
5473	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #168876	\$80.32
5474	The Next Step-Leo Garcia	Pest exam retake class April 24 & 25	\$4,000.00
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$53,098.05

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Heather reported that the **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Focus Investment Partnership grant** was approved and the Hood River Basin Partnership grant was allocated funding. This will provide funding for 8-10 years of bilingual pesticide and irrigation water management workshops and trainings, and funding for about 1,000 acres of on-farm irrigation upgrades. The group was supportive.

Heather reported that she received about 20 applications for the **Conservation Technician job**. She has set up interviews and invited the board to participate if they want to. Heather also reported that Brittany will stay on as long as needed or until she secures another job. The group was supportive.

Kris provided the group with an update on the status of the **Oregon Private Pesticide License Applicators Exam**. She explained that there has been no tangible progress yet on updating the Oregon Applicators exam and preparation materials. However, she is continuing to work with all of the partners and keep the issue pertinent. The group was supportive.

Heather reported that they have a lot of capacity money for finalizing the GIS irrigation status maps. Kris and the Conservation Technician will begin to dedicate some time to finalizing the mapping effort. Heather would like to sign a **phase II contract with Ed Salminen** so he can begin work with the irrigation districts to fill in the missing information. Andrew moved and Annie seconded signing a contract to finalize the irrigation system maps. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Heather provided the group a **preliminary budget** and had sent it out prior to the board meeting for review. Heather reviewed the estimated income and expenses. The income is fairly standard with OWEB small grants, garlic mustard plant sale, ODA capacity funds, the Agricultural water quality support grant and the ODF forestry funds. The budget projection does not include some projected or pending grants like the OWEB FIP projects, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs contract, the new PSP EPA funds, or the National Association of Conservation Districts. Heather will make updates as they are known and the group will review the budget and provide feedback. Heather hopes to approve the budget in June. The group was supportive.

Heather also provided the group the **budget memo**. She had sent out the narrative to the group that goes along with the budget. If there are comments please send them to Heather. The group was supportive.

Heather reported that she needs some **information for the new auditor** from board members. This is to ensure that family members are not unfairly benefiting from the District. The group will provide Heather the necessary information.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that she heard from a private company about planting and biochar technology but it did not seem practical for the topography of the Hood River Valley. She has continued to process EQIP applications and 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. She attended the CONNECT conference in Sun River and there is a job offer to a Soil Conservationist to support Carly in her office.

Kris reported that she facilitated an in-person Worker Protection Standards training to make up for the one that had to be moved to a virtual platform. The plant sale went well and they will plan to scale up their sale of native wildflowers and potted plants next year. She is working to put together a grant for the next year of Pesticide trainings and workshops as well as support for unmanaged fruit tree removal and OSU biocontrol program. She presented at the CONNECT conference and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board meeting. Leo Garcia taught a 1.5 day review class for the Private Pesticide Applicators License exam and WSDA administered the exam. Five more applicators secured their license. She will follow up to assist with reciprocity.

Heather reported that she also was busy with Plant Sale, OWEB small grants, and attended the CONNECT conference. She has been working to put together the logistics and her presentation for the Spanish language Wildfire Preparedness night in collaboration with Comunidades and OSU.

Directors' reports –

Ben has been busy with on-farm operations. He has been working to get his irrigation systems up and running. Markets begin on Saturday.

Andrew has been busy with frost season, planting new orchard blocks, and irrigation upgrades.

Chal reported being busy with on-farm operations and reported light fruit set in comice.

Annie reported being busy with work and house projects.

Chuck reported that he is continuing to work with the parks department on the trail system and gardens. He referenced an article on Cascade Locks and suggested doing a community wildfire night in Cascade locks similar to the events in Parkdale.

Brian reported EFID had an irrigators lunch for the Spanish speaking irrigators in the EFID. Steve discussed district policies, upgrade options, and the flow restrictors. Brian reported that NRCS wants more in-depth review of the stormwater mitigation efforts. Brian reported on the lateral pipeline projects that will happen this fall. He also reported challenging weather for applying sprays this year.

Other business Heather reported that the July board meeting will be moved to Thursday July 11th 4pm at the OSU Conference room.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 6th at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

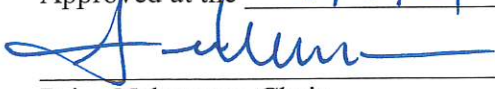
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to sign the Phase II contract for finalizing the irrigation maps.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager

Approved at the 6/6/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair