

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from July 11th, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, and Ben Saur
 Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling
 District and NRCS Staff: Kris Schaedel, Brittany Welsh, and Carly Heron (NRCS)
 Visitors- Lissa Biehn- USDA (provided update on tree assistance program)
 *Note June's meeting was held online over Zoom.

Consent agenda – Annie moved, and Ben seconded:

- To approve the minutes of June 6th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the June 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of June 30th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$271,844.53**. Income of \$31,379.76 included \$1,518.27 from workshop classes, \$747.55 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG, \$7,305.56 from USFS for Garlic mustard abatement project, \$15,000 from OWEB for the Torres Irrigation Improvement project, \$3,298.00 from OWEB for HR Pesticide Management.
- Expenses were those authorized at the June meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5484-5492 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid		July 11, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,986.57
5484	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5485	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Rockford Grange refund, Carbonite backup	\$58.16
5486	Century Link	Office phone service	\$219.11
5487	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$152.56
5488	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$115.91
5489	Mt. Adams Resource Stewards	mobile wood chipping, 6 days	\$21,000.00
5490	SAIF	Worker's Comp annual insurance	\$358.82
5491	OACD	annual dues (0.3% of revenue, minus HRWG)	\$1,589.05
5492	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #296630	\$49.48
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$42,181.97

 Brian Nakamura, Board Chair Date

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Kris presented the finalized **Annual Work Plan** required by the Oregon Department of Agriculture for each district. Kris reviewed the plan of work document with the board and the categories the HRSWCD staff divide their time between. This includes the new Conservation Technician position. The group was

supportive. Ben moved and Annie seconded to approve the annual work plan as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Kris reported that the **new hire** Cheryl Rice will start August 1st. Brittany Welsh's last day will be July 26th. The group was supportive.

New Business:

Kris reported that the EPA PSP grant for additional bilingual pesticide education and training was approved for \$73,000. She also reported that the NACD grant for about \$60,000 was recommended for funding and that would allocate an additional \$30,000 to pesticide education and training. She also presented at the conservation commission meeting to talk next steps for Spanish language pesticide education, and it went well. There are capacity issues at ODA that will need to be worked on. Kris is working with Jan Lee for potential funding and general support.

Kris updated that 98% of the OWEB Small Grant Funds have been spent, which will make the district eligible for unspent funds. These additional funds will be allocated to irrigation and/or riparian projects in the area. FIP irrigation projects are beginning to be developed as well.

Brian reported that there is an SDA Oregon training for Board Members in the Dalles on September 18th. Annie is able to attend, and Heather will register her for the training.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that the new employee is working out well and she should be able to attend a future meeting. She reported that she worked with FSA to update records so the final EQIP applications could be obligated. She is also working on finalizing payments. She is also collaborating with the team planning a community wildfire event on July 25th.

Kris reported that she has presented on the work of the district at multiple industry events including the Soil and Water conservation commission meeting, legislative orchard tour, and OR board of agriculture public comment session. She is continuing the process of updating the testing center computers to be able to offer the Private Applicators License Exam at the OSU conference room. She has been reaching out and setting up site visits with orchardists for irrigation improvement projects to implement through the OWEB FIP grant.

Directors' reports –

Ben has been extremely busy with on-farm operations and the farmers markets are in full swing. He is staffed up for the summer, which is a big help.

Annie has been busy working on various projects. She is currently in Wenatchee working on a stormwater mitigation management project.

Brian reported that he will begin harvesting cherries soon and they are making it through the heatwave okay. He reported that the cherry market is looking good.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 1st at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

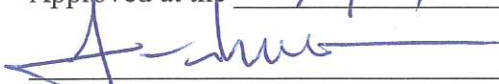
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to approve the ODA Annual Work Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Welsh, Conservation Technician

Approved at the 8/1/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

