

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District  
Minutes from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, Andrew Halliday, Pete Siragusa and Ben Saur  
Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling  
District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Cheryl Rice, and Cal Dwyer (NRCS)  
Visitors- Lissa Biehn- USDA (provided update on tree assistance program)

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

- To approve the minutes of July 11th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the July 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$230,405.72. Income of \$761.11 included \$761.11 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG.
- Expenses were those authorized at the July meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5493-5501 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$16,392.68
5493	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5494	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, stamps	\$160.51
5495	Century Link	Office phone service	\$220.64
5496	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$166.43
5497	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$79.08
5498	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$117.65
5499	Pine Grove Grange	forestry night rental fee	\$100.00
5500	PERS	Social security Administration fee	\$15.00
5501	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #362907	\$18.80
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,923.10</b>

The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Heather announced that the **new hire** Cheryl Rice started today in the Conservation Technician position. Cheryl introduced herself to the group. Heather and Kris will be working to bring her up to speed over the next few weeks and are excited to have her on board. The group was supportive and welcomed Cheryl.

Heather reviewed the **budget vs actual** financial report. She explained that the original budget was done conservatively. There was an additional \$200,000 of income and expenses but the actual net income was only \$1,000 different than what was budgeted. Multiple grants were not accounted for in the budget because they had not yet been awarded during the time of budget creation. Heather reviewed and explained the income sources and the projects they funded. The group was supportive.

**New Business:**

Kris reported that she is working with Jan Lee and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts to meet with legislators to develop legislation that would allocate state funds to Oregon Department of Agriculture for multiple full-time positions for bilingual pesticide education and capacity to run an equitable licensing program. One of the key limiting factors in education and an equitable licensing system is capacity within the agency- and so that is something that needs to be addressed. The group was supportive.

**Informational Reports –**

Kris reported that she presented on SWCD activities at the OSU field day. She is updating the testing center computers and identifying the improvements needed to OSU's internet to be able to offer the Private Applicators License exam at the OSU conference room. She is developing irrigation improvement projects to implement through the OWEB FIP grant. She is also organizing several agricultural trainings.

Heather reported that the ODA Local Advisory Committee light review of the Ag Water Quality plan and rules is coming up. She met with Nina Caldwell and will suggest moving the review to March when people have time to participate. Heather reported that she is looking for new members to participate. She set up the county fair display in collaboration with FSA and the CTWS. She assisted the CTWS with fin clipping at the hatchery. She also met with Tualatin SWCD staff to discuss their upcoming fire/forestry program. She also attended a meeting with Oregon Ag Trust in the upper valley to discuss working together on an NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program application next year.

**Directors' reports –**

Chuck reported that the Watershed Group is doing in-water water work on Neal Creek and Baldwin Creek. The Neal Creek project includes a helicopter doing log placement. Work at Baldwin creek will get going soon. The watershed group hired a new staff member and she is out doing field work. The HRWG worked with partners to contract a group to remove abandoned camps and garbage on a Hood River island, near the railroad bridge. Chuck also did some additional clean-up along Indian Creek trail.

Pete reported that he finished cherry harvest. Kingsley reservoir is being for firefighting efforts on the Whiskey Creek fire. FID is continuing to work on finalizing their water rights with regards to storage at Kingsley Reservoir.

Ben has been busy with on-farm operations and the farmers markets.

Annie has been busy working on various projects.

Andrew reported that he finished cherry harvest and is preparing for pear harvest.

Brian reported that he finished cherry harvest and attended the OSU Field Day. EFID will upgrade the Alison Line this Fall, and they will begin on the Ohana line this upcoming year. He also reported that the water outlook was good in East Fork.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

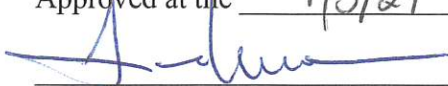
**Summary of Actions Taken:**

✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager

Approved at the 9/5/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



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Brian Nakamura, Chair

