

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District  
Minutes from October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Cheryl Rice, Carly Heron (NRCS), and Cal Dwyer-online (NRCS)

Visitors- Lissa Biehn-online, USDA FSA (provided updates on statewide fire grants through ECP (opens on 10/7/24) and EFRP; if you know someone from Green Diamond, send them Lissa's contact information; open position at the USDA beginning on 10/7/24; county committee elections happening in November-separate ballot from county, state, federal elections)

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

- To approve the minutes of September 5th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the September 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of September 30th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$280,247.56. Income of \$96,200.10 included \$36,500 from PSP sampling from EPA, \$33,081.01 from the ODF Defensible Space grant, \$23,854 from OWEB for the Woosley and Sherell Irrigation Improvement Projects, and \$2,765.09 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG (which includes \$2000 from the OWEB monitoring grant).
- Expenses were those authorized at the September meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5515-5523 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Ascensus as follows:

Bills to be Paid		October 3, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$17,467.98
5515	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5516	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Bluehost, logo tablecloth	\$264.69
5517	Century Link	Office phone service	\$230.86
5518	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$85.29
5519	Cheryl Rice	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$543.53
5520	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$427.86
5521	Central Gorge Master Gardeners	Food bank expansion - NACD Urban grant	\$6,200.00
5522	Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation	community garden - NACD Urban grant	\$6,950.00
5523	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #704575	\$31.71
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Ascensus SIMPLE IRA	Simple IRA	\$2,003.74
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,501.76</b>

The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Kris provided updates on the legislative action for funding bilingual pesticide education positions potentially at Oregon Department of Agriculture. Currently, the bill is being drafted by legal counsel and we are not sure if it will be an Agriculture Committee bill or a bill that receives individual bipartisan support from representatives. The group was supportive.

### **New Business:**

Heather discussed the draft audit report which included the agreed upon principles and financial statements. Heather will provide additional information for the new auditor. The group discussed the report and was supportive.

Heather discussed a new restoration application for the OWEB FIP-\$375,000 for on-farm irrigation upgrades. The FIP application includes 10 landowners covering almost 200 acres. Money is set aside for archaeological surveys which are needed for all FIP restoration grants. FIP grant applications are due November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Heather discussed OACD board member elections. There are 2 open positions, one in the northwest region and one in the southern Oregon region. Each open position had only one applicant. Ben made a motion to vote for the northwest region applicant and the southern region applicant on the OACD ballot. Annie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Informational Reports –**

**Cal** assisted Andy Dwyer (ODF) in forest management plans and plot maps. She attended an NRCS training on AgLearn. She mentioned there were two new forestry applicants with EQIP. She assisted the Farmers Irrigation District with their fish salvage and assisted Andy with 5 forest inventories.

**Carly** reported that Andy Dwyer is moving into another ODF job. The deadline for EQIP is Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. There is \$500,000 for the East Fork Irrigation District and \$750,000 for the West Fork Irrigation District available to upgrade on-farm irrigation. Postcards were sent out to help get the word out about EQIP funding. Carly held a community meeting with Baldwin Creek Landowners and helped them fill out forestry applications on site. The overarching ODF agreement with NRCS is now signed.

**Cheryl** reported mobile chipping will occur on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. She helped organize, publicize and participated in the 9/19 Puncturevine Pull event at the waterfront. She collected water samples for PSP monitoring on 9/3 and 9/24. Cheryl developed 1 OWEB Small grant for irrigation upgrades. She tabled at the OSU Extension Front Yard Garden Tour. She assisted with collecting forest inventory data with ODF and NRCS, assisted in collecting flow meter readings and collecting temperature logger data with HRWG, and participated in 7 spawning surveys with the CTWS.

**Kris** worked on her presentation for the OACD conference. She developed the OWEB FIP restoration grant budget and abstract for review at a Hood River Restoration Partnership meeting. She also attended an OWEB FIP cohorts meeting in Redmond. She has been working with Andy Wilson on the ArcGIS Pro map of irrigation system updates. SWCD was awarded \$60,000 through a NACD Urban Agriculture grant. Some of those funds will go to support the OSU Extension Master Gardener Association and Cascade Columbia Housing Corporation.

**Heather** reported the Annual Report is almost complete. She met with OWEB about the archaeological survey needs with irrigation projects. She prepared and sent out the Fall eNews. She filed a time extension for the garlic mustard grant. She participated in one spawning survey with CTWS.

### **Directors' reports –**

**Chuck** reported that he attended the HRWG Neal Creek tour. He assisted in the fish salvage with Farmers Irrigation District. On November 16<sup>th</sup> the HRWG will be having its annual celebration at The Ruins.

**Ben** reported he finished harvesting hay at the end of August. He was able to reduce irrigation using low flow handlines and watering at night. He toured the HRWG Baldwin Creek Project. He is still harvesting but done planting and weeding.

**Annie** attended the SDAO Board Members Role, Expectations and Ethics Meeting in The Dalles. The group discussed. Her work has been busy with many tiers of permitting for federal projects. The Port is having an open house to walk the Hood River Bridge on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Brian** reported that Crestline has started fusing pipe on the East Fork. Irrigation water will be turned off in the middle of the month. There will be a fish salvage at the end of the month for the East Fork Irrigation District. On Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, he will be hosting a tour for the Clean Currents Convention about irrigation modernization programs. He finished harvest and the weather was great.

**Permits** –None

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

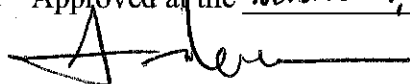
**Summary of Actions Taken:**

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved the OACD ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rice, Conservation Technician

Approved at the November 7, 2024 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



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Brian Nakamura, Chair