



Klamath  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

541.883.6924 | 1945 Main Street, Suite 200 | Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 | [www.klamathswcd.org](http://www.klamathswcd.org)

## **KSWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 14th, 2024**

### **In Attendance:**

**Board Members:** Earl Miller, Ken Masten, David Cone, Jolene Moxon

**District Staff:** Alex Sharp/PM, Sam Fletcher/PM

**Community/Agencies:** Josh Elke/NRCS, Charles Dehlinger/Public

**Meeting called to order at 12:29pm – Chairman Ken Masten**

**Agenda Additions/Changes:** None.

### **Old Business:**

- Approve January Financials
- Approve January Minutes

### **Motion 1: Motion to Approve January Financials.**

**Motion:** Cone

**Second:** Moxon

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** 4 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

### **Motion 2: Motion to Approve January Minutes.**

**Motion:** Moxon

**Second:** Cone

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** 4 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

### **Motion 3: Motion to Approve two employees attending the OCEAN Conference in Sunriver from April 16-18, 2024.**

**Motion:** Cone

**Second:** Moxon

**Discussion:** Earl Miller asked what the conference was for, it is the Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Connect annual conference. Josh Elke initially recommended that the SWCD attend, as he said it would be very beneficial and a great way to connect with other SWCD's, learn about other successful conservation projects, and also about new funding opportunities.

**Vote:** 4 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

**Board members** | Ken Masten, *Chairman*, Jolene Moxon, *Vice Chairman*, David Cone, *Treasurer/Secretary*, Martin Kerns, *Director*, David Kent, *Director*, Earl Miller, *Director*

**Staff** | Will Natividad, *District Manager*; Alex Sharp, *Project Manager*, Sam Fletcher, *Project Manager*. Hanna Chittenden, *Project Manager*



## **Reports:**

### **NRCS Report: Josh Elke**

Josh thanked Ken Masten for attending the Local Work Group meeting, and the SWCD for organizing the meeting this past week on the 6th. The purpose of this meeting was to identify current gaps in funding and also new areas for opportunities and improvement. There was a definite need shown by landowners for stockwater wells, especially due to their rapidly increasing cost. Jason Pettigrew, a forester with ODF, also explained the current forestry issues and risks in the area, including pests and fire risks. Improving irrigation efficiency was also still definitely an area of need. The Upper Klamath Basin Ag Collaborative will also officially be receiving funding for restoration in the Sprague, and this grant includes funds for the SWCD to do work in the area and also provide more support to NRCS. NRCS currently has approximately \$5 million of projects planned. Josh also presented the board with the snowpack statistics as of the beginning of the month for the entire state.

### **Financial/General Board Discussion**

David Cone referenced the email previously sent by Michelle at SBC, that explained at current spending rates, there are only 3 months left of funds in the Capacity Grant, which ends in June of 2025. This is clearly not a sustainable rate of spending for this grant, and it was discussed that maybe the district could bill more of those costs to Unrestricted funding instead, as suggested in SBC's email. Jolene wanted to view the Grant Summary sheet with a breakdown of admin versus other funding, instead of just the total amounts for each grant. Jolene also mentioned that the Forest Service, BLM, and OSU have all been working to get wild horses out of the federal land in Devil's Garden, and suggested there may be funding available for supporting this project that the district could potentially apply for or obtain.

The board also brought up concerns, which were reflected in Michelle's email as well, about potential security or privacy concerns regarding Hanna remotely working from overseas. According to the US Office of Personnel website, a Domestic Employee Teleworking Overseas (DETO) agreement is required, and some people may be ineligible for this if they handle any secure materials. The board also raised concerns about the district credit card, phone, and laptop being used in another country. The board agreed that they would like to discuss the plan more in detail, including a breakdown of Hanna's job duties and how they will be accomplished remotely with both Will and Hanna present, potentially at the next board meeting.

### **FSA Report: Amanda Welker**

Amanda is the CED from Clackamas County, she is here visiting and completing job training. Amanda is involved in a program to support urban agriculture in coordination with NRCS, and the USDA has set up 17 cities across the country to pilot these programs. Although the program

**Board members** | Ken Masten, *Chairman*, Jolene Moxon, *Vice Chairman*, David Cone, *Treasurer/Secretary*, Martin Kerns, *Director*, David Kent, *Director*, Earl Miller, *Director*

**Staff** | Will Natividad, *District Manager*; Alex Sharp, *Project Manager*, Sam Fletcher, *Project Manager*, Hanna Chittenden, *Project Manager*



541.883.6924 | 1945 Main Street, Suite 200 | Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 | [www.klamathswed.org](http://www.klamathswed.org)  
is fairly new, it has received a lot of interest so far and has 40 individuals registered. Amanda believed this program will be around for awhile and will eventually expand to more cities.

#### **ODA Report: Provided via email from Nina Caldwell**

There is an upcoming meeting for the LAC biennial review of the Lost River AqWQ Management Plan coming up March 21, 2024 in the government building downtown. A draft of the document will be sent out to LAC members this week.

#### **District Staff Report: Sam Fletcher**

- Both OWEB grants we submitted this fall (Restoration Grant for Irrigation Upgrades, Riparian Fencing, and Stock Watering w/ NRCS, and Yellow Flag Iris assessment and treatment) have been recommended for funding by the technical review teams. The OWEB board of directors will make final funding decisions at their meeting on April 23rd, and funding would probably be available in May. The Dyer's Woad weed assessment and treatment grant with the Oregon State Weed Board has also been recommended for funding.
- A grant application has been submitted to the BLM for YFI treatment from Lake Ewauna to the Keno Dam, it would be a 5 year project, totaling \$748K (but is scalable depending on funding) and would last 5 years.
- A draft proposal has been sent to the Klamath USFWS office for funding this spring, involving virtual fencing and off-source watering for cattle. The total for this project would be \$179K. We are planning on using the current USFWS Juniper removal and Spring Restoration funding for a project in the Upper Sprague. We are working with the local office and another USFWS biologist who has already been doing restoration work on the ranch. For the USFWS Restoration agreement, we have several smaller scale projects planned this spring including water gaps on the Williamson and Sprague, and riparian fencing.
- There is another BLM grant application due 2/22 for more fire mitigation work in the Keno area.

#### **Chair Report: Ken Masten**

Ken mentioned the recent removal of the dams on the Klamath River, and asked what the board's opinions were. They discussed the immense amount of sediment left over from the reservoirs being drained, that wildlife have been getting stuck and perishing in while trying to reach the water to drink. The amount of fish, which includes suckerfish among other native species, are dying off at an alarming rate everywhere downstream of the dam removals. Water quality issues are also starting to arise downstream, with most metal and contaminant levels measuring far above legal limits. The consensus was that the dam removal has caused several very serious problems for wildlife, the environment, and drinking water quality in the area.

**Board members** | Ken Masten, *Chairman*, Jolene Moxon, *Vice Chairman*, David Cone, *Treasurer/Secretary*, Martin Kerns, *Director*, David Kent, *Director*, Earl Miller, *Director*

**Staff** | Will Natividad, *District Manager*, Alex Sharp, *Project Manager*, Sam Fletcher, *Project Manager*, Hanna Chittenden, *Project Manager*



Klamath  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

541.883.6924 | 1945 Main Street, Suite 200 | Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 | [www.klamathswcd.org](http://www.klamathswcd.org)

**New Business:**

Some of the board members terms will expire in 2024, the SWCD will verify the dates and look into the process for holding another board member election.

**Public Comment: None.**

**Meeting is adjourned at 2:06 pm – Chair Ken Masten.**

**Minutes Approved as Written or Amended:**

*Ken Masten* *3/13/24*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KSWCD Chair Date

*David Cone* *3/13/24*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KSWCD Secretary/Treasurer Date

**Board members** | Ken Masten, *Chairman*, Jolene Moxon, *Vice Chairman*, David Cone, *Treasurer/Secretary*, Martin Kerns, *Director*, David Kent, *Director*, Earl Miller, *Director*

**Staff** | Will Natividad, *District Manager*; Alex Sharp, *Project Manager*, Sam Fletcher, *Project Manager*, Hanna Chittenden, *Project Manager*