



541.883.6924 | 1945 Main Street, Suite 200 | Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 | www.klamathswcd.org

KSWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 14th, 2024

In Attendance:

Board Members: Ken Masten, Earl Miller, David Cone, Charles Dehlinger

District Staff: Will Natividad/DM

Community/Agencies: Josh Elke/NRCS, Kelley Delpit, Sustainable Northwest

Meeting called to order at 12:38pm – Chairman Ken Masten

Agenda Additions/Changes: Discuss No-Till Drill and Tax Base.

Old Business:

- Approve Financials for July 2024
- Approve Minutes for July 2024

Motion 1: Motion to Approve July Financials.

Motion: Cone

Second: Dehlinger

Discussion: David Cone asked about the \$10,000 check to Klamath County Public Works- Will answered that this was for the Dyer's Woad weed treatment grant. He also asked about what project the \$63,000 payment to Helen Hankins was for- which was a reimbursement for pipe purchased for the Hankins Grant with OWEB. Ken also asked who the work cells were with, and if Hanna's cell phone was still active, as the billing amount had not changed recently. Will answered that it was, and Ken said her phone needs to be shut off. Charles Dehlinger asked for clarification on employee credit cards, if the balance shown was current or YTD. Ken asked if he also had a Visa card, which appeared to be the case according to the credit card statement. The board called Julie, and she answered that Ken did have a credit card stored in the SBC office, with several auto-pay bills on it each month. Julie also clarified all the charges last month were routine and auto-pay charges, with the exception of a \$700 charge on Will's card which was for a new laptop. Earl Miller asked about the total numbers for credit cards of approximately \$9,000 in June and \$8,000 in July, and several numbers not adding up, there seemed to be a \$1,300 discrepancy between two different totals. With several outstanding questions, it was determined that the board would wait until the next meeting to approve July financials.

Vote: 3 Yes - Cone, Dehlinger, Masten. 1 Abstained - Miller. Motion Failed

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



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Motion 2: Motion to Approve July Minutes.

Motion: Cone

Second: Miller

Discussion: Some minor edits, including the format of Jolene's name were discussed; changing it to Moxon-Robison, and minutes were approved.

Vote: 4 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

Motion 3: Motion to Approve the KSWCD Telework Policy.

Motion: Cone

Second: Miller

Discussion: The board wanted to clarify that "secure internet" meant not public internet. They also changed the language from "Executive Director and Operations Manager" to "District Manager" in the second to last paragraph.

Vote: 4 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

Reports:

NRCS Report: Josh Elke

Josh said he has been happy so far with the cooperative agreement between NRCS and the SWCD, and that it has been monumental. With new staff, he has been working on workload redistribution. NRCS also has plans with Intermountain West Joint Venture to bring an additional employee into the office. They have been working with Klamath Watershed Partnership as well. The current NRCS fiscal year ends in September. They have been working on improving their ranking questions for the next year. The board also discussed the current issues with water rights and lack of irrigation a lot of landowners are experiencing, as well as difficulties with new wells.

FSA Report: Josie McCarty

The FSA has an emergency relief program for 2022 crops with a deadline of today. We are currently in a D1 drought, and a D2 drought is required before any drought programs become active. The FSA has been referring a lot of people lately to the Klamath County for grasshopper damage programs. Klamath County has a grant program that just opened up for landowners who have experienced grasshopper problems. Laura Hall has left her position as County Executive Director, so the FSA currently has an acting CED, Emma Gabriel, out of Harney county. The best way to get ahold of her is via email. Laura's position will be open for two weeks beginning Friday. Kelley Delpit has had a lot of landowners asking about Laura lately, and suggested the FSA could send out more information and contact info for the acting CED to a mailing list, or as a part of Sustainable Northwest's newsletter.

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District Manager Report: Will Natividad

The IM-11 pre-proposals are due tomorrow, both Alex Sharp and Sam Fletcher have been working on them. Alex is working today on finishing up several, and Sam is working on two, and Will is also working on one; with a total of seven potential projects being submitted. These would primarily be irrigation improvement projects, with some riparian plantings. There are also several USFWS Partners Program projects going on the ground this year. Algoma is wrapped up, and the district is expecting payment within the next week or so. The Hankins grant that Sam wrote is also expected to be completed this year, since the NRCS portion of the funding expires at the end of the year. Earl asked about if that letter had gone out to USBR from several months ago, Will answered that yes, it had been sent out after all edits had been received from board members.

Chair Report: Ken Masten

Ken mentioned he received an email from Sandi Hiatt at ODA, there is still a large number of open positions for SWCD Director Elections. The deadline for all election paperwork is coming up soon this month, on August 27th.

New Business:

David Cone mentioned more outreach before the district pursues the idea of a tax base, including booths at local events and fairs.

Charles Dehlinger wanted to go see the No-Till drill, and Ken said that he could meet him out there since the equipment was located near his house. Charles did say that he can't drive, so he will need assistance with transportation- Will responded he would be happy to provide assistance if he has one or two days advance notice. Charles also mentioned that he was waiting on some information from Julie Jespersen about past income and financials for the equipment rental program.

For reviewing employee evaluations, Will said he still has work to do on those. Once they are complete, technically only the chairman needs to review them. Will said he will send the completed, finalized evaluations to Ken shortly.

Public Comment:

None.

Meeting is adjourned at 2:24 pm – Chairman Ken Masten.

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Klamath
Soil & Water
Conservation District

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Minutes Approved as Written or Amended:

F U N D A M E N T A L

KSWCD Chair

Date

KSWCD Secretary/Treasurer

Date

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