



Klamath
Soil & Water
Conservation District

541.883.6924 | Fax: 541.882.5409 | 1945 Main Street, Suite 200 | Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 |
www.klamathswcd.org

KSWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2022

In Attendance:

Board Members: David Cone, Todd Kepple, Ken Masten

KSWCD Staff: Interim Project Manager, Will Natividad

Community Partners: Josh Elke, NRCS; Molly O'Brien, Herald and News; Michelle Sharp, SBC; Emily, FSA; Jackson Scordecy, Klamath Irrigation District

Meeting called to order at 12:47 – Chairman Ken Masten

Agenda Additions: None

Chairman Ken Masten states that there is not a quorum present, so no action can be taken at this meeting.

NRCS Report: Josh Elke

- There are 3 vacancies in Klamath; 1 Soil Conservationists, 1 Forester, 1 Engineer. They recently hired a Soil Conservationist that will be on board sometime in January.
- Fiscal year end comparisons 2015-2022 are complete and they look good. Looking to 2023 he anticipates an uptick in funding availability.
- Annual field office highlights; one is irrigation water conservation and drought resilience, (irrigation improvements, cover cropping) working in a large area, Lost River, Williamson and Sprague.
- Lost River Watershed Juniper Removal Project was funded and they are looking at several properties near Klamath Falls for fire readiness to hopefully avoid fire disaster to the city.

FSA Report: Emily

- LFP Program for non-irrigated grazing or water shut-off for the entire season, compensates up to 60-90%
- ELAP Program water hauling to livestock or feed transportation over 25 miles – ends Jan. 30
- NAP crop insurance program mainly for grazing and hay ground – deadline is Nov. 30
- Starting to process CRP payments
- New Emergency Relief Program – if producers receive anything in the mail, they need to bring it in to FSA office for assistance
- Fall reporting is due by Dec. 15

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No-till Drill Discussion:

Ken reports that the drill parked at OSU Extension does need repair, he is hoping he can get Frank Hammerich to do the repairs once we locate/purchase the parts. Will states that there needs to be an inventory made of parts on-hand. Will has an idea about possibly having “zone managers” that take of the drill and do deliveries in their area. He also thinks it may be a good idea to increase the rental rate to absorb the labor to clean the drill when it is not returned in good condition and then offering a discount when it is. Todd asks if it would work better to charge a deposit, a reservation could be made with the deposit check a week in advance, such as \$200. Ken states he believes it would be best to have a single person in charge of delivery and maintenance. Ken also states the Aerator is need of repair, all the knives need to be replaced.

District Cell Phone Report/Discussion: Will Natividad

Will found that there are several very reasonable options so he should be able to narrow it down and bring it to the next meeting for approval. The district currently has a fax line through Spectrum that does not get utilized enough to warrant the charge to the district. His recommendation is to discontinue use of the fax and then that money would be free to use for the district cell phone.

Elections Report: Will Natividad

Will contacted Sandi Hiatt at ODA. He is able to use district operations funds to actively recruit for vacant board positions and/or employee positions. Funds can be used for advertisement, outreach, etc. that would pay the DM for time spent. All the funding is tied to very specific areas to avoid misuse.

SBC Report: Michelle Sharp

- Dave has a question on the Balance Sheet; Compensated Absences Payable – PTO payout in the event an employee terminates employment. Michelle will research and make corrections.
- Michelle recommends that the Financial Policy be updated; she states that there are several areas she has highlighted. Dave asks that she give him a copy so that he can review it also.
- Michelle has received insurance policy forms from WHA (special districts insurance) requesting updated district information. The forms need to be returned in November, she wants to confirm whose name and info she should insert regarding the District Manager. Consensus is Ken’s info as Acting DM should be provided and then can be changed after the position is filled.
- Michelle reports that all needed information has been provided to Todd for the Annual Audit.

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Public Comment: Jackson states he is representing KID and was thinking it would be good for them to understand how the two agencies can work together.

Chair states that he will schedule a special meeting before the end of October to take care of needed action items.

Meeting is adjourned at 2:30 – Chairman Ken Masten

Minutes Approved as Written or Amended:

Ken Masten

KSWCD Chair

11/9/22

Date

David Cone

KSWCD Secretary/Treasurer

11/9/22

Date

Attachments:

#1 Interim Project Manager Report

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