



Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Minutes **DRAFT**

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
08.15.22	Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District 3291 West 1 st Avenue Eugene, OR 97402 Teams Meeting Phone Conference ID: 598 350 893#	1:00 pm	4:00 pm

CHAIR	COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	ABSENT
Barbara Boyer	Ken Bailey, Stan Dean, Tim Kerns, Jerry Ward, Al Hrynyshyn	Jim Bob Collins

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Staff Present

Marganne Allen, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and Water Quality Program Manager; Eric Nusbaum SWCD Operations Specialist; Sandi Hiatt SWCD Grant Administrator; Karin Stutzman SWCD Program Lead

Visitors

Dave Downing –District Manager Upper Willamette SWCD (UWSWCD); Lily Leitermann – Conservation Programs Manager UWSWCD

Call to Order

The regular quarterly meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by Vice - Chair Jerry Ward.

Presentations

Tax Base Update- Trials and Tribulations- Dave Downing provided an overview of the history of the UWSWCD, their attempt at procuring a tax base in 2018, finally getting the vote in 2020, and receiving their first award in December of 2021. He then went on to describe how they have been building their staff and programming over the course of 2022 utilizing the new tax base.

Pure Water Partners Collaborative (PWPC) – Lily Leitermann gave a presentation about how this partnership has developed in conjunction with the new tax based being awarded and the urgency

created from the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. This fire resulted in significant destruction to land, homes, and water quality over 170,000 acres. The District wanted to build on partnerships and be a lead partner in recovery planning and environmental threat mitigation, along with the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) and the PWPC. Together they built a recovery plan and got to work. Lily discussed their trials and successes and outlined their vision as a group moving forward to include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) outreach, as well as mental health support for victims of the fire. Wildfire resources can be found on the District's website at: <https://uwsxcd.org/what-we-do/wildfire-resources/>

Review/Revisit SWCC Strategic Plan

Members reviewed the current plan (2019-2021), would like to add a statement and an initiative about DEI that Districts could model. Board asked Stan Dean to create a sample DEI plan for use internally with the commission first for review and finalization, then for Districts to use. Want to add to the plan because the plan is what guides the Commission's work.

Tabled for a future meeting.

Back to Basics Director Eligibility Work Session

Members participated in a lively discussion. They have been working on this topic in a variety of forums over the last two years and would like to settle on two or three director eligibility recommendations that the SWCC and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts can agree on moving forward. Board agreed to allow Stan Dean to bring 4 options for revisions to the director eligibility criteria to the November joint meeting with OACD in Newport, Oregon. Introduce topics the first day of the conference, and then use the next day to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Digital copies of these meetings are available upon request