



**Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission Minutes  
Regular Quarterly Meeting  
Monday, July 6, 2020  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Via Go-To-Meeting**

**Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Members Present**

Chair, Barbara Boyer, Ken Bailey, Jerry Ward, Stan Dean, Gary Jensen, Tim Kerns

**Absent:** Jim Bob Collins

**Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Staff Present**

Stephanie Page, Natural Resources Director, Marganne Allen, SWCD Program Manager, Eric Nusbaum, SWCD Operations Specialist, Sandi Hiatt, SWCD Grant Administrator, Renita McNaughtan, SWCD Program Administrative Specialist

**Advisors**

Jan Lee, OACD

**Visitors**

Erin Kilcullen, Deschutes SWCD; Whitney Collins, Baker SWCDs

**Call to Order**

Chair Barbara Boyer called the regular quarterly meeting to order at 3:00PM on Tuesday, July 6, 2020.

Chair Barbara Boyer introduced the purpose of this work session; to review foundational statutes to ensure Commission effectiveness and understanding. Starting with ORS 561.395 through 561.403, Boyer asked the Vice Chair, Jerry Ward what his specific questions were. Ward noted that some cleanup could be done on the wording in ORS 561. The term “director” is unclear sometimes whether it is referring to ODA or SWCD Director – a housecleaning topic, not critical.

Ken Bailey suggested if the rules are opened, the SWCC should consider changing the name from Soil and Water Conservation Commission to Natural Resources Commission as the rule is broader than just the Districts. Boyer asked Eric Nusbaum about the name change –Nusbaum noted that the name usually mirrors the district names as it is currently.

ORS 561.400 – referencing the duties and powers of the Commission and the establishment of the State Department of Agriculture a Natural Resources Division. Stephanie Page shared that one of the concepts for the 2020 Legislative session was to update language in statutes referring to “divisions” but are now referred to as “program areas.”

Boyer asked Gary Jensen if there was anything that he would like to highlight – he didn’t think that changing the name was necessary but referenced ORS 568.210 - definitions – Elector, Director, Landowner.

Stan Dean had several items to discuss about the statutes and started with asking why the Commission is tied to ODA and questioned whether they should be independent. Nusbaum said it was an independent commission at one time and was

eventually tied to ODA and that he could look for where this was referenced. Dean then referred to 561.395(5) “The function of the Commission...”. He said that it reads the Commission can only “advise...” and that the Commission has been working broader than that. As he reads it, the Commission doesn’t have the authority to do more than advise ODA and only on ODA business. Ward feels that their expertise is on soil and water conservation and that is why they don’t advise on other areas like forestry, etc.

Jensen noted that we are seeing the expansion of services, other than just soil and water, at the SWCDs. If the commission needs to expand their authority, then they should be involved with administration, etc., which is taking on more than the commission’s capacity. He mentioned that the Upper Willamette SWCD are looking at getting a tax base; the headwaters of support are the urban areas instead of the farmers and dairies, who aren’t involved with their program anymore; farmers and dairyman have slowly left due to time commitments or for other reasons.

Dean – if the commission were to expand their authority, we are narrow in what our scope is. 561.400(1) Last sentence reads “The administrator of the division shall be appointed by the director under ORS 561.050 after consultation with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.” 561.400(2)(a) “To review and approve or disapprove all projects, practices...” What if the board wants to take on a project and ODA says they don’t want them to. Sandi Hiatt said that is referring to the scope of work (SOW), which is now with OWEB. The only budget that is turned in is for the SOW.

Nusbaum noted that historically, we used to write in the grant agreement that we preauthorized everything. Then there was a discussion that we are “authorized” it doesn’t say we have to. If things went sideways, the districts would blame ODA. This was then taken out of the contract and it doesn’t say “we shall,” it just says “we could” authorize.

Page said there might be areas where we want to adopt rules to describe the authorities that we have. Generally, the rules do describe statutory authority and we don’t have that here. She suggests that if the Commission decides they don’t want ODA to have this authority, request adoption of rules.

Dean read 561.400(2)(c) – “To coordinate, as much as possible, the various programs of the soil and water conservation districts.” And then (f) “To receive materials, machinery and equipment...” why would anyone want to give something to ODA and then ODA gives it to the SWCD? Might need to be cleaned up. Boyer noted that this has been used a couple of times in the past. (h) “To establish the procedures for developing...” shouldn’t this be borne by others like OWEB? Page said this could be part of the cleanup. Nusbaum said besides (h) and 568, if a district wants to do any riparian projects, it needs to be approved by ODA; this needs to be cleaned up as well.

Dean then asked about 561.400(3) – what is this getting at? Page says it isn’t very clear and maybe has to do with collaboration.

Barbara Boyer’s issues are 561.395(1) having to do with the word “various” districts. It should be removed and read “all” 561.395(2) – “The term of each member shall be four years.” We don’t have term limits. Nusbaum noticed that there is an assumption – if you’re on the commission and no longer a director but says you only have to be a director at the time of appointment. 561.400(4) – Boyer wants it removed. Nusbaum said the intention was for districts to have liability coverage. However, it isn’t the same now – so we may want to keep it in so that if a district can’t afford to have insurance, it may be useful, even though it’s not enough coverage. Page suggested leaving it since it says “may.” 568.225 Policy – what is it referring to as “renewable” natural resources. Looking for an explanation. Jensen said that forestry is renewable and is the right term use in the sense that something comes back. This was probably a political public relations word to use at that time. Page said she isn’t certain there is an alternative way to get the reference other than from Archives. Boyer was surprised to see in policy the part about “promote recreational development.” She would like to get something from archives on this too.



Eric Nusbaum referred to 561.395(3) – majority vote of the quorum. This means the majority of those present not of the full commission which is explained in the Attorney General Journal. 568.225(1) – Policy – “It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Legislative Assembly...” and “...the soil and water conservation districts shall also strive to achieve the goal set forth in 568.155.” Page noted that there are a lot of sections in 568 that ODA could adopt rules to further describe to implement them. It would be helpful to have explicit authority to do rulemaking.

Eligibility requirements – Oregon’s history has exclusion policies that have carried forward. Referring historically that at one time African American’s could not own land.

Jan Lee and Whitney Collins both said they will send a written note/email with their comments to Barbara Boyer. Erin Kilcullen didn’t have any comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39PM.

**Regular Quarterly Meeting  
Tuesday, July 7, 2020  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Via Go-To-Meeting**

**Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Members Present**

Chair Barbara Boyer, Ken Bailey, Jerry Ward, Stan Dean, Gary Jensen, Tim Kerns

Absent: Jim Bob Collins

**Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Staff Present**

Stephanie Page, Natural Resources Programs Director; Marganne Allen, SWCD Program Manager; Eric Nusbaum, SWCD Operations Specialist; Sandi Hiatt, SWCD Grant Administrator; Jim Johnson, Land Use Coordinator; Margaret Matter, Ag Water Resources Specialist; Renita McNaughtan, SWCD Program Administrative Specialist

**Advisors Present**

Jan Lee, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD); Courtney Shaff, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB); Sam Angima, Oregon State University (OSU); Ryan Gordon, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF); Kyle Gorman, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD); Gene Foster, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)

**Visitors**

Whitney Collins, Baker SWCD Manager; Erin Kilcullen, Deschutes SWCD



### Call to Order

Chair Barbara Boyer called the regular quarterly meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

### SWCC Member Reappointment

Marganne Allen extended the Commission's thank you to Stan Dean for his willingness to serve another four years with his reappointment effective as of today, July 7, 2020, which will expire June 30, 2024.

### Approval of April 2020 Meeting Minutes

Gary Jensen moved and Ken Bailey seconded to approve the April 2020 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

### Selection of Chairperson & Vice Chair

Barbara Boyer asked for nominations for Chair. Stan Dean nominated Barbara Boyer to serve as Chair and Jerry Ward seconded. The vote for Barbara Boyer to serve as Chair carried unanimously. Barbara Boyer then nominated Jerry Ward to serve as Vice Chair and Ken Bailey seconded. The vote for Jerry Ward to serve as Vice Chair carried unanimously.

### Water Quality Program Update – Stephanie Page and Marganne Allen

Stephanie Page updated the Commission regarding budgets. ODA is working on preparing 2021-23 budget requests; POPs have been submitted that have positions associated with them. The rest of the budget will be submitted sometime in August. Page reviewed the POPs that have connections to water quality. A standard submission prepared each biennium is a list of cuts that would be put forward for consideration. Also preparing cut list for current biennium due to the pandemic with both general funds (GF) and lottery funds (LF) proposed cuts. GF cuts has been submitted. The Department of Administrative Services has presented the cuts and the Legislature will need to vote on those cuts. Some of ODA's cuts are: foregoing hiring seasonal staff in Plant; CAFO inspector moved to an open position in Fertilizer Program. Cuts that haven't had action taken on are: Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) program - cuts to waste collection (GF); \$75,000 local partner grants, and funds that go to DEQ for lab analysis. However, is limited loss in our agency where we do have GF. In response to the Governor's Executive Order 20-04 ODA and several other state agencies developed and submitted climate change plans. Key components for several program option packages (POPs) have connections to climate change mitigation or adaptation, which included the Soil Health POP, WQ POP; Shellfish related POP. Creating a generalized inspector pool to avoid staff traveling long distances that would help reduce carbon footprint. In addition to new funding requests, we talked about how we are already partnering with other programs within ODA, which again reduces the need for travel. On the operations side, looking at simple things in our building to reduce energy consumption. Participating in a variety of work groups to related to climate change mitigation or adaptation; we are part of adaptation work group with Land Conservation that they have been facilitating. Key component is connections with communities of color and disapportionate communities, also includes the Environmental Justice Task Force that work with the nine federally recognized tribes. ODA has been doing a lot of work internally with training for management in diversity. Thank you to the SWCDs who have helped with trapping (Japanese Beetle) – several have reached out to help as well as Jan Lee at OACD. Will be seeing a lot of creative collaborations over the next few years. Marganne has the same duties that John Byers did with the SWCD but Market and Access has taken over the Smoke Program and are handling the day to day management.

Marganne Allen presented on the WQ program in relation to budget. Cuts have been salary savings and timing in when hiring. Holding an additional program manager position open as well as two regional water quality specialist positions for the Willamette and North Coast areas. Currently reassigned these two areas to other specialists. Allen also noted how COVID is affecting the program. Restrictions with overnight travel for only the most urgent circumstances that affect human health and environmental health. Working hard to continue support to and with our partners. Sandi Hiatt has worked hard to communicate with every county in relation to the director elections. We are kicking off a programmatic discussion with DEQ regarding our interagency agreement; held an executive meeting and currently working on an agenda for the rest of the staff. Ag channel Mike Powers, Tyler Manitsus, and Paul Measeles are working hard on the rules and putting together procedures and forms with DSL and ODFW input. The rules are out for comment through July 30, 2020. Estimate that the rules will



become effective around mid-August depending on the comments that come in from across the state. Using a phased-in approach across the state. Phase-in will start with Region 1 which is the North Willamette Valley and then from 2021-2024 moving south thru the Willamette Valley and then easterly. There was a question about why the east side is not being included – Whitney Collins said that the east side has been involved all along and she has asked her District directors for comments and sent them on to Mike Powers. Stephanie Page was a member of work group that worked on legislation. There was a concern with going statewide because of resources, and concerned about getting flooded with notifications across the state with only one position handling them all. Page encouraged everyone to send in their comments if they have other thoughts on how to roll out the plan. Outreach will be to the Districts in the regions as they come online through the roll out. There was no funding provided to the Districts but could use the Capacity Grants to implement. Allen then reviewed the SIAs and said that due to COVID restrictions, meetings have either been switched to online or conference calls. Open Houses have been particularly difficult and staff are having to experiment with mailing or phone call campaigns. Same issues with biennial reviews due to COVID restrictions. Elections – July 16th is the first day for district candidates to file and August 25th is the last day for submitting forms by close of business. Any open positions that have no candidates can be apply to be a write-in; deadline is October 20th, close of business. New directors can start on or after January 21, 2021. Deadline for noticing of elections is July 24, 2020; date the publication needs to be published by.

Stan Dean suggested the commission advise ODA to push for a quicker roll out of the channel maintenance program as well as push for the hiring of the SWCD Program Manager position.

### **Water Reservations – Margaret Matter**

Margaret provided an update of the joint work of ODA and OWRD; progress continues on the inquiry of the questions:

- Can the broad range of multi-purposes of reserved water, listed and implied, in the basin programs, be accommodated by definitions or intent of ‘storage’ and ‘reservoir’?
- Regarding the application form--Are OWRD’s rules sufficient to allow modifying the application form, or do the rules require modification?
  - Examples: AR, ASR; ISF augmentation, recreation, water quality - may not require a surface reservoir;
  - Current and new interest in applications to access reservations of unappropriated. Water:
    - Current:
      - Serious interest in ASR and/or AR in:
        - Powder Basin
        - Grande Ronde Basin
        - Fifteenmile Creek (Wasco County)
    - New:
      - Hood Basin: Small off-channel reservoir (could go forward)
      - Grande Ronde–Presentation to the PBP collaborative meeting:
        - Mitigation for a proposed GW well -- may have potential substantial influence on SW
        - Landscape storage (flood mitigation, enhance infiltration –improve connectivity, soil moisture, mitigate drought)
        - Instream flow augmentation – neutral party may manage
        - Type of water market -- neutral party may manage
  - Pending Reservation in the John Day Basin
    - Basin w/pending reservation (ORS 537.356 and 537.358)
    - Classified quantities of water for specific uses – established by the Water Resources Board and called ‘reservations’ – also in the WARS table
    - July 28 (10-11): Presentation to the collaborative
      - Do John Day Basin stakeholders want to pursue finalizing the pending reservation?



## **Advisors Reports**

### **OSU – Sam Angima**

Sam Angima noted that OSU and OSU extension offices have been open since COVID started but are operating remotely. The college campus is at phase 1 and are starting to open offices July 15 going forward and see clientele in a safe manner but often not face to face. Budget cuts - state agencies were asked to prepare 17% budget cuts; OSU Extension invests 99% of funding in people – so the impact is huge. The university implemented a hiring freeze starting in April 2020 unless the funds were coming from grant sources. In the current FY19-21 biennium, the legislature gave money to OSU Extension for water, organic, and wildfire positions and OSU has applied suggested cuts within those positions. The vegetable organic position was hired in January 2020; however, we lost the other position (organic forages) to cuts. Hiring six wildfire positions across the state – one on campus (one was cut) other five are regional which covers whole state. Of these five, one is rangeland fire position based in Harney County at Burns to cover all the rangelands and non-irrigated croplands in the state.

### **OWEB - Courtney Shaff**

Courtney Shaff provided an update that OWEB is facing budget reductions since video lottery closed down with restaurants. They took a significant cut to their budget and is down 33% for remainder of biennium. Eleven staff were reassigned; six to other state or federal agencies with five staff reassigned to the food safety and farm worker safety program and working with grant funds. OWEB is looking at a 16% reduction going into next biennium. For the SIA program, one staff had been key to that program but was reassigned. Ellen Hammond will be taking the lead working with all of the SIAs related to monitoring with limited OWEB participation. OWEB will continue to facilitate the statewide monitoring meetings for the purposes of reviewing the SIA monitoring proposals. OWEB grant funds were on a pause and the OWEB board in June released that pause and are able to award open solicitation grants that were supposed to be awarded in April. Partial funding was awarded for FIPs. Restoration, stakeholder engagement, and technical assistance are only grants being offered through the rest of the biennium. OWEB's intent is to offer one more open solicitation grant cycle, with the deadline being July 27<sup>th</sup>. OWEB will not be offering another grant cycle for weed grants or monitoring grants this biennium. September 9<sup>th</sup> is the next OWEB board meeting. They are starting to get questions about next biennium, which is projected to be down 16%. They have been talking internally about extending watershed council grants into next biennium, maybe 6 months. Processing of payments to the districts has been going well thanks to Sandi. They are working with Sandi and Theresa to move application online for next year. They have done some testing with district staff to make the online application as seamless as possible. For the remaining eight SIAs that are anticipating funds, she and Marganne are working through ideas on how to move forward and provide funding.

### **OACD – Jan Lee**

Jan Lee said that she, Stan Dean their Advocacy Committee Chair, and the committee members have developed a template policy for how SWCDs could adopt for their district to work on legislative and regulatory issues. A training webinar on legislative and regulatory interactions is planned for August 20 and September 10. OACD will be reviewing a charter for formation of a statewide Working Lands Committee. OACD has been working with the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, the Nature Conservancy, Oregon Agricultural Land Trust and American Farmland Trust on working land issues. OACD is working on a publication to focus on the value of working and natural lands to deal with climate impacts and other needs. OACD is also working with NRCS under a grant to produce “Oregon’s Conservation Story,” focusing on projects developed by SWCDs that exemplify NRCS Oregon priorities. The publication will be provided to legislators, agency decision makers and others to promote districts. Due to cuts in the Oregon Conservation Partnership grant from OWEB, OACD and the partnership are reworking programs, giving up the Salem offices and the part-time staff position. OACD sent out a “director eligibility” survey last month in support of the SWCC work to address eligibility. It is important to hear from every district to provide a good summary response to State Rep. Nosse, the legislator SWCC and OACD are working with on the director eligibility issue. Stan added OACD is sending out a request form for issues that could be addressed in the 2021 legislative session. Ken Bailey and Jan did a presentation to the House Agriculture Interim Committee last fall about districts and their work.

### **ODF – Ryan Gordon**



Ryan Gordon shared that due to COVID, their offices do remain closed statewide and are serving customers by appt only. All districts went into fire season on July 6 and predictions have been for an above average fire season, though recent conditions have been mild. COVID-19 has necessitated a lot of extra planning around fire season, especially around management of large fires. The goal is always to keep fires small, and that's especially true this year. His impression from staff in the field is that landowner engagement has remained consistent through COVID, even if the format or venue has changed. Most outreach events have been cancelled - in place of Clackamas Tree School, they are delivering tree school online and will continue thru July; details are available at [knowyourforest.org](http://knowyourforest.org). Legislative news - 2020 session ended without action on a number of key forestry bills, including important wildfire bills. Legislature passed SB 1602 in special session last month - important in Private Forests Division and finalizes an agreement between industry and conservation groups around a host of issues - rules and notifications for pesticide use on forest lands, SSBT (riparian) protections in the Siskiyou georegion, and a commitment to detailed review of some parts of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Specifically, to the stream protections, the Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout Rules that were implemented in Western Oregon will now also be applied to the Siskiyou georegion. SB 1602 will require much of the Division's staff resources, at least through the end of 2020. Budget news - ODF has been able to achieve the Governor's requested 8.5% reduction, primarily through holding vacancies and deferring some special projects; a hiring freeze has been imposed. In the Private Forest program, additional challenge having GF matched by harvest tax, which is anticipated to be down by 30% due to mills buying fewer logs. ODF is awaiting final Legislative action to know the full impact of budget shortfalls through the end of the biennium. Other news - Working on NRCS side of things with new state forester, Andrew Owen - good to have a good forestry contact for the statewide agreement with NRCS. Currently working to finalize a new agreement with NRCS that will extend the partnership for another 5 years.

#### **OWRD - Kyle Gorman**

Kyle Gorman noted that the governor has declared drought in some areas of the state. Current counties are: Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson, Douglas, Klamath, Deschutes, Crook, Wasco, Gillam - two additional requested are Morrow and Wheeler but have not been declared. Really low flow conditions. If declared drought, there are opportunities for federal drought relief funding but Oregon's are limited. The Division 19 drought emergency rules are invoked when declaration is made. Allows for much easier access of water through drought emergency groundwater permits or temporary transfers and other water right transactions. Agency offices are closed to public except for appointment only services. OWRD continues to process water right transactions and serve the public as best they can. Learning as they go and taking precautionary measures. The 8.5% cuts for rest of biennium - looked at all of the options and were able to meet the cut criteria without having to propose any position cuts. Agency is about 2/3 GF, which will affect next biennium's budget. Cuts were taken in cost share measurement funding, vacant positions, grants and loans program.

#### **DEQ Program Update - Gene Foster**

Gene Foster updated the commission on the TMDLs in development, 319 pass-through grants, water quality initiate. There were litigated temperature TMDLs court ordered to replace TMDLs over the next seven years. Announced a data solicitation, which is a call for data to support the redevelopment of those temperature TMDLs. Still doing preliminary work pulling together data, information, and reviewing existing models, etc. Foundational work that will allow in subsequent years to efficiently move forward on the TMDL public process. Upper Yaquina DO, temp, and bacteria - engaging public late summer early fall; same for Coquille DO, temp, and bacteria - public engagement will pick back up early fall. Working on Siletz - DO; Powder - DO, pH and bacteria. and these TMDLs are about a year behind of the Upper Yaquina and Coquille. EPA Columbia River and lower Snake River temperature TMDL has been established and open for public comment. Will be important for EPA to issue for controlling heat from human sources. The 2020 319 pass-through grants that DEQ implements and administers; type of projects is outreach and education, technical assistance; watershed planning, best management practices, planning and implementation. Total grant dollars of \$227,000. Also have the CZARA reduction that DEQ is not receiving of \$500,000. DEQ does expect satisfactory progress letter from EPA on the implementation of Oregon's NPS Management Program Plan - that will allow putting grant agreement in place this fall for receiving the 2020 319 funds. CZARA reduction does not have a sunset date. The BOF may adopt riparian management rules for the Siskiyou region for the protection of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, similar to the rules already adopted for the rest of Western Oregon. In addition, SB1602





may help with DEQs case with EPA and NOAA for addressing the gaps the gaps identified by these agencies in the Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Plan. Assisted NRCS with the national water quality initiative for public water system source water areas by using the drinking water program source water assessments for those areas. Has turned out to be helpful for Oregon to be competitive for these national funds. Oregon had five in 2019 and another five in 2020 and more coming in 2021 with funding coming from NRCS. It has been a good collaboration between ODA, DEQ, and OWEB for drinking water. DEQ is dealing with the same budget issues due to COVID as other state agencies. Currently addressing through vacancies, less travel and have not laid staff off at this point.

#### Land Use Issues/Legislative Update - Jim Johnson

Jim Johnson reported on some important studies – American Farmland Trust Report – analyzes farmland lost on a state by state basis 2001 to 2019? First time maps and takes into account low density, rural residential development. In Oregon during same time period, it said we have lost 65,000 ag land; 50/50 split between rural residential and urban development. Available online: webinar with YouTube link – will make available. District members/staff and board members, AFT has started a national ag land network that focuses on land conversion, professional development, tech support, policy updates. Regular members that are involved and membership is free. Good resource in protecting working lands in Oregon. Report by 1,000 Friends of Oregon – death by 1,000 cuts – 10 point plan to protect Oregon farmland. Discusses what’s happening in Oregon and the development of non-farmland uses. Report makes 10 policy recommendations – enforce land use laws; better development of definitions and criteria for nonfarm uses; needs to be a better reporting of actions taken around the state - solar facilities, for example. Re-evaluate of exclusive farm use zone; scale back some of the uses. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a joint webinar. Drought council meets this week will consider adding Morrow and Wheeler counties. Federal declarations designated as federal drought: Benton, Marion, Lane, Linn, Polk, Yamhill, Morrow and Wheeler (I think I missed a few). ODA staff – Lisa Hanson, myself, Barbara Boyer, and other stakeholders - ODA is committed to taking issues of conservation easements and funding of directing of working lands. Tasked to draft some policy work to take to NASDA. Commitment to get more info to the Board of Ag (BOA) talking about conservation easements, policy related easements, land trusts, etc. BOA met virtually, for half a day meeting; usually runs two and one-half days. BOA took no action on the resolutions they are reviewing – forwarded to September meeting. The Boardman to Hemingway transmission line is getting close to final decision. Notice that energy council will be holding contested case hearing. Hot topic in east Multnomah County - wants to run a water line and treatment plant through high use farmland.

#### Public Comment

No public comments.

#### SWCC Member Reports

**Jerry Ward** – nothing to report.

**Gary Jensen** – adjusting to conditions they are facing in Lane County. Meetings are by appointment only with SWCD staff. Still wrestling with whether to pursue tax base.

**Ken Bailey** – noted we do have a state conservation easement on ag land but no funding for it.

**Tim Kerns** – he had to leave - Whitney gave his report. Baker County SWCD permanently moved office location out of NRCS/FSA building. They are fully functioning and have completed nine projects since COVID started. Also working with Margaret Matter on water reservations.

**Stan Dean** – Jan mentioned model advocacy policy for SWCDs – he encourages people to look at it. A way for districts to become more efficient in their advocacy. Will be part of the training – Aug 20; Sept 10. Legislative input form – looking for people that have concerns about existing statutes; complete form and send to him or Jan.

**Barbara Boyer** – she is in the middle of harvest and dealing with husband’s health. Two positions on state BOA open; ag producers with a deadline of July 17<sup>th</sup>. One position open on the PARC Board; they meet six times a year regarding pesticides, complaints, 24-hr call line 211.

#### Newsletter Topics

Soil and Water Conservation Commission

July6-7, 2020

Page 8 of 9





Looking for three topics: Survey getting in by deadline (Stan); model advocacy policy and training OACD will be doing; Inform districts that commission is reviewing the statutes. If any concerns about existing statutes, they should contact the commission (Barbara Boyer). Budget situation is affecting ODA, uncertainties, etc. Send input to Eric by end of this week (July 10).

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Would like to change venue to Zoom. Eric noted that our IT department will not let us initiate Zoom meetings only participate. Eric also explained why we use online meeting and call in phone number. Marganne will check into this situation and update the commission. Jerry Ward said his district has a Zoom account and would be willing to host meetings.

#### **Next Meetings**

Fall meeting – November 16-17

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

