



P O Box 95 Monument, OR 97864

MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2021

Monument Senior Center

Monthly Board Meeting

Call to Order – Jim Bahrenburg called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Board of Directors in attendance –Brian Campbell, Jim Bahrenburg, Troy Cox, and Andy Watkin (5:21pm)

Staff – Erik Rook (District Manager), Patrick Baxter (Office Assistant), and BA Robbins (Fiscal Manager) via phone.

Guests: Aaron Roth (NCRS), Randy Williams (Wheeler SWCD)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Jim Bahrenburg to approve the meeting minutes from 10/4/21 and was seconded by Troy Cox. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION REPORTS

NCRS: Aaron reports that RCPP deadlines are coming up on Nov 19th. He would like to get funding signups in fall, instead of the spring. Erik shared the RCPP Landowner Interest Survey Results in map form. The projects would be good for AG water storage and Firewater Storage, as well as for putting in wells. Andy would like to see pools of water drawn from seasonal creeks. Buried cisterns, or gravity fed structures for ODF, or repurpose grain silos for water storage (possibly with helicopter access), were also discussed. Erik and Aaron will talk more.

Wheeler SWCD: Randy Williams is looking for funding partners for additional automated monitoring weather stations setup in the area. They will measure solar activity, ground temperature, rainfall, snowfall, wind speed, etc in 15-minute intervals. AG and Fire Districts would benefit from the data provide. They are \$8,000 each for equipment and installation, \$1800/yr for maintenance. Installations wanted for Fossil, River Corridor, and Mitchel area. Setup will require a 12x12 with a chain link fence area, potentially solar powered. Preferably on private land or secured public land. Randy hopes to get details hammered out over the winter and setup in the spring: Randy will provide contact info the project lead.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. District Manager Report: Erik reports that the Small Mouth Bass Snorkel Surveys are completed. MSWCD Winterization almost complete. Engle grant for 492-acre juniper cut has been submitted. Work with Tribes for capacity grant is moving forward. ODA would like to close the Leafy Spurge Project because of staffing issues/covid/etc making the deadline unattainable. This will not negatively affect future Grant Projects and we will

submit a new Grant by December 15th with tighter focus and more partners. Camp Creek project is hold during the new property owner transition. Erik is working with Amy for the 5-year provisional checkup on the Cavender Wetlands Project.

2. Financial Report: BA provided the financial report along with supporting documentation. A motion to approve the report was made by Andy Watkins and seconded by Brian Campbell. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
3. Office Assistant Report: Patrick continues to work with BA on cross training for QuickBooks and Banking procedures.
4. MVM Seasonal Layoff: Erik reports that MVM staff have been laid off until Feb 2022. Jim asked for details, and Erik explained the lack of activity during this season transitions the office into more of a reporting role. Erik hopes to have more options for additional work for MVM next year through this time.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fiscal & Administrative – District Manager – Document & check signing authority: Missing enough members to get the paperwork signed, this will be done outside the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SIA Update – Meeting in John Day with Grant SWCD, Director of Agricultural Water Quality, and members of the state legislature: Erik attended the meeting and reports it was very informative in understanding the SIA process and roadblocks moving projects forward. Board members indicated that a stance of waiting for ODA to delineate the SIA geography would be a better option than delineating the area in-house. Concerns remain about landowner perception about the SIA process and the SWCDs involvement. Members reiterated that the SWCD's strength is in voluntary participation. They also would like to see ODA do more to highlight all of the good work that has already been done for Ag Water Quality and to use existing information to measure Ag Water Quality (ie: Project mapping, John Day Basin Partnership ATLAS prioritization).
2. SWCD Highway Signage – Signs at or near SWCD Boundaries: Erik is supportive of this project and still stay in the loop and report back.
3. AgiMet Network Meeting – December 8th – Wheeler SWCD

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:15pm

MEETINGS: Next MSWCD board meeting to be held at the Monument Senior Center on December 6, 2021 at 5pm.

Approved by:

Anna Behrensberg
Chairman/Vice Chairman

12/6/21
Date

Eric Peck
Recorded and submitted by

12/6/21
Date

