

DESCHUTES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2024

Meeting location: Zoom

Current Board Members

Director Zone 1 (Redmond)	Amy Hensley
Director Zone 2 (Sisters)	William Kuhn
Director Zone 3 (Tumalo)	Jeff Rola, Co-Chair
Director Zone 4 (Alfalfa)	James Warren, Co-Chair
Director Zone 5 (South County & La Pine)	Andrew Aasen, Treasurer
Director At-Large #1	Robin Vora, Secretary
Director At-Large #2	Brian Lepore

Directors present: William Kuhn, Jeff Rola, James Warren, Andrew Aasen, Robin Vora, Brian Lepore

Staff present: Erin Kilcullen, General Manager; Tom Bennett, Conservation Planner ; Jena Thomas, Programs & Operations Coordinator

Agency attendees: Lars Santana, NRCS District Conservationist

Other attendees: Dr. Stuart Garrett, East Cascades Audubon Society

See Website for acronym descriptions:

<https://www.deschuteswcd.org/files/ede6f9a58/Acronym+Glossary.pdf>

Order of business:

1. Call to Order & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm; all attendees introduced themselves.
2. Public Comments:
 - East Cascade Audubon Institute
 - Dr. Garrett updated the Board of their current conservation projects and restated his interest in partnering with the District on future wildlife conservation efforts. (Dr. Garrett has made several presentations and requests to the Board over the years).
3. Agency Reports:
 - NRCS, Lars Santana
 - The local work group meetings are upcoming. The next meeting is February 27th, 9am-11am at Redmond City Hall. This is intended to gather feedback on conservation efforts and deliver and update as well as a forecast for the upcoming year.
 - Erin, Lars, and Stacey from Jefferson SWCD have been brainstorming ways to utilize Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding for an agreement that would bring funding to the district. This would assist with delivery of IRA programs, contracted programs, and staffing. This would be a joint agreement between NRCS, Deschutes SWCD, Jefferson SWCD, and Crook County SWCD.
 - February 7th and 8th will be the Jefferson County farm fair.

- Lars has been working on the Joint Chiefs final report and is collaborating with DSWCD to gather some video clips for the report.
- They have hired a new conservationist, Chris Handy.

4. Audit Overview

Richard Winkel

- Because the district has exceeded expenditure of \$500,000, we are due for an audit. Richard Winkel has been performing the audit, examining the financials of the district. They also assessed for compliance, and they had no findings. Everything appeared to be appropriate. Testing has concluded. His recommendations are to develop personnel files for all staff and letters of annual raise approvals. He also suggested that the District look into an interest bearing checking or savings account.

5. Action Items:

a. Board Members Homework

- Brian Lepore:
Brian researched past tax authorities over the past 4 years. He found data from Deschutes County clerk and examined results over the past 4 years. Many of the taxing districts have had their tax bases previously established. He has reached out the Ari Mendez of Bend Parks and Rec to discuss if they are trying to achieve any taxing authority.
- Andrew Aasen
Andrew investigated the possible limit of tax authorities that are allowed. He believes there is a county limit of 15, however the city of bend has a higher limit than the county. He believes the limit is 17 but is waiting to hear back.
- Amy Hensley
Amy was not present at the meeting. She did not find any other taxing authorities that have submitted information at this time.

b. OCEAN Connect Conference

- The conference is in Sunriver and is \$275. Erin and James may attend. Erin will find out if there are any scholarships available.

c. DSWCD Awareness Campaign

- The largest hurdle we are facing is recognition by our constituents. We need to be sharing our work and our stories with more of the community. We are discussing with local outlets the possibility of showcasing more projects.

d. District Enhancement Committee Strategic Plan Review and Discussion

- Next Steps:
 1. Develop a timeline
 2. Partner Meetings - spreadsheet
 3. Finalize power point and talking points for partners
 4. Contact and hire survey companies
 - a. DHN research, \$28,000 - \$34,000, 10-12 weeks for them to complete their polling and get results

e. Director eligibility feedback for Robin:

- Robin asked for Board feedback on a proposal regarding director eligibility for new taxing districts he plans to submit to the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board (he is a member). Robin is concerned that current rules on eligibility result in very few people in Deschutes County being eligible to run for 5 of 7 Board positions, most people in Deschutes County can run only for the other two at-large positions, and the Director zones in Deschutes County have very unequal populations.

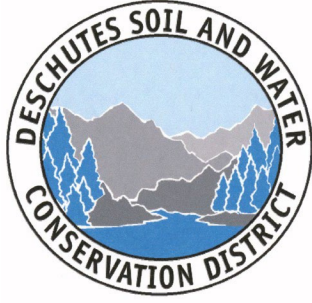
6. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
 - Motion #1 made by William Kuhn, seconded by James Warren to approve the December board meeting minutes.** Rollcall vote: unanimous approval.
7. Approval of the Financial Report
 - The financial report will be revisited in the next meeting.
8. Directors' Reports.
 - William Kuhn
 - Will is searching for someone to serve as a replacement for him on the board.
 - Jeff Rola
 - Jeff will be having surgery soon and will not be able to attend meetings in person for the time being.
 - James Warren
 - None
 - Andrew Aasen
 - None
 - Robin Vora
 - Robin is considering submitting an amendment to the Oregon Association of Conservation districts regarding director eligibility.
 - Brian Lepore
 - Brian has been sworn in as a COID board member.

The next board meeting will be at 6pm on February 15th, at the East Bend Public Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm



Erin Kilcullen, General Manager



DESCHUTES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting – January 18th, 2024
 Meeting location: Bend East Side Library, OR with a
 Zoom option available

Motions Made	Vote Result
<i>Motion #1 made by William Kuhn, seconded by James Warren to approve the December board meeting minutes.</i>	Unanimous approval

Addendum: Motions of the Board Meeting – January 18th, 2024