



**DESCHUTES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Board Meeting Minutes – November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Meeting location: Bend Downtown Library, Bend OR with a Zoom option available.

**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: Amy Hensley, William Kuhn, Jeff Rola, Andrew Aasen

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

Agency attendees: Lars Santana, NRCS District Conservationist; Scott Dugan, OSU Extension

Other attendees: Tony Iaccarino, DHM Research

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 6:27pm.; all attendees introduced themselves.
2. Public Comments: None.
3. Agency Reports:
  - a. DHM Research
    - Nonpartisan public opinion research firm, 40 years' experience, worked with Upper Willamette SWCD. We will need to pursue research if we intend to continue with a tax base. It will be most beneficial within the election year.
  - b. NRCS
    - Jenn Eatwell has taken a new position and there is a vacancy for her position. NRCS recently held an interview, selected a candidate and they will be moving forward filling her role. The new hire may start Late January/February.
    - The EQIP application deadline is approaching, 1.2 million dollars' worth of work is expected based on the current scope. Lars and Todd have been collaborating on the H-8-3 Pipeline project. They recently conducted a spot check program.
  - c. OSU Extension
    - Recently passed 200 client calls and had an article published in Oregon Cattlemen's

Magazine. They are hosting a Cattle class next month, as well as a meat processing class. They are also currently in the process of revamping 'Living on a Few Acres' course and curriculum, into the "Oregon Small Farms School".

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
  - a. **Motion #1 made by William Kuhn, seconded by Andrew Aasen to approve the October board meeting minutes contingent on edits made to NRCS' agency report. The report was amended.** Rollcall vote: unanimous approval.
  
5. Action Items:
  - a. NACD Annual Dues
    - DSWCD will pay annual dues to the NACD
  - b. District Enhancement Committee Strategic Plan Review and Discussion
    - Tony Iaccarino from DHM Research spoke to the board. DHM is a nonpartisan, public opinion research firm with 40 years' experience, including experience dealing specifically with SWCDs. DHM conducted polling in Lane County when Upper Willamette SWCD was pursuing a tax base. Conducting a survey will provide us with useful information regarding the demographic of the district regardless of if we intend to pursue a tax base. The polling will likely be most beneficial if done within the targeted election year.
    - Further conversation was postponed until more board members can be present for discussion.
  
6. Directors' Reports.
  - a. Amy Hensley
    - None
  - b. William Kuhn
    - Bill is appealing a tax issue on his property and asserts that his personal conflict does not reflect the perspective of The District.
  - c. Jeff Rola
    - Attended the OACD meeting. It was a productive, well attended meeting. Participation in OACD is increasing.
  - d. Andrew Aasen
    - None

The next board meeting will be at 6pm on December 14th, at the East Bend Public Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm

*Erin Kilcullen*

Erin Kilcullen, General Manager



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Motions Made	Vote Result
<i>Motion #1 made by William Kuhn to approve the October board meeting minutes contingent on edits made to NRCS' agency report. Andrew Aasen seconded the motion.</i>	Unanimous Approval

**Addendum: Motions of the Board Meeting – November 16th, 2023**