



DESCHUTES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes – March 21st, 2024

Meeting location: Bend East Side Library and 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, Andrew Aasen, Robin Vora, Brian Lepore

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

Agency attendees: Lars Santana; NRCS District Conservationist

Other attendees:

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 6:11pm; all attendees introduced themselves.
2. Public Comments: None.
3. Agency Reports
 - a. NRCS
 - NRCS hosted their local workgroup meeting. They discussed how they are prioritizing forestry projects going forward. In the past they have utilized Oregon Explorer fire shed tools, but with added information becoming available they are interested in finding new ways to identify and define 'high-risk' watersheds.
 - NRCS has brought on a new program assistant. They will be providing office support. They have also brought on a new conservationist.
 - DSWCD has been assisting NRCS with site visits for potential future applications.
 - NRCS and DSWCD are continuing to collaborate on a forestry video project.
4. Program Updates: See Exhibit A.
5. Action Items
 - a. Director Zone boundary changes

Robin would like to pursue Director zone boundary changes. The District does not think this is the right time and will revisit the Director Zone boundaries after the November election.

- b. ECAS seed collection proposal
Erin has talked with Stu Garrett from ECAS, and it does not seem currently to have a specific grant application for this. Erin will continue to have conversations with ECAS about probable future projects.
 - c. Local Government Investment Pool
DSWCD will begin depositing money into the LGIP. Andrew expressed some hesitation over the fact that the LGIP is not FDIC-insured. Erin and Andrew will meet to discuss the exact amount to be deposited by the next board meeting.
 - d. Relationship with Tribes
Robin would like DSWCD to foster a partnership with Tribes, including a statement on the website regarding ceded lands. Jeff will be reaching out to Tribal leaders regarding a formal partnership.
 - e. District Enhancement Committee
 - Partner meetings review (See Exhibit B)
Erin gave a recap of the partner meetings that were held in January/February.
Next Steps:
 - Finalize Strategic Plan
Jena has completed a final rough draft of the plan after the input from the partner meetings. She would like to hire a marketing company to do the rest.
 - Develop a timeline and set up one on one meetings with cities and county officials
This will be completed after the polling results.
 - Campaign
This will be investigated more after the polling results.
 - Marketing
Jena is working to get 3 proposals from marketing firms to hire for DSWCD. These proposals will be presented at the April Board meeting.
 - Editorials in newspapers
 - Polling questionnaire
DHM has been hired and will be working with the District to begin polling after the May election.
 - Ballot measure
Erin will be meeting with the County on the steps to get on the ballot.
 - Anything else?
6. Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes:
 - a. **Motion #1 made by William Kuhn, seconded by Andrew Aasen to approve the February 22, 2024 board meeting minutes.** Rollcall vote: unanimous approval.
 7. Approval of February Special Meeting Minutes:
 - a. **Motion #2 made by William Kuhn, seconded by Andrew Aasen to approve the February 27, 2024 Special Meeting minutes.** Rollcall vote: unanimous approval.
 8. Approval of receiving February financial Report (See Exhibit C)
 - a. **Motion #3 made by William Kuhn, seconded by Robin Vora that the Board has received the February financial report.** Rollcall vote: unanimous approval.
 9. Directors' Reports
 - a. William Kuhn
 - None
 - b. Jeff Rola
 - None

c. Andrew Aasen

- Andrew requests a spot on our website to highlight food security resources in Deschutes County.
- He is interested in ongoing discussion regarding director rezoning.

d. Robin Vora

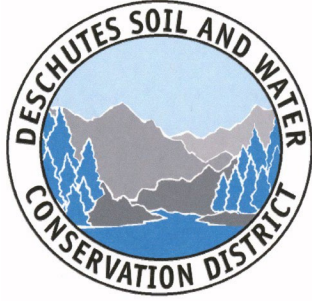
- Robin shared some highlights of a questionnaire he sent to SWCD managers and board chairs in north central and central Oregon to better understand the issues and principal programs of those SWCDs. Improving irrigation water use efficiency and Sage-grouse habitat improvement are some of the principal programs. Several managers recommended some level of streamlining at the state level. All asked what does the Oregon SWCC do and why does it exist? They also do not know what the Oregon SWCC can do for them. Robin stated his concerns about director eligibility in some counties and suggested some changes in state law for SWCDs seeking a new tax base. He met with the state economist in Bend and noted that only one to two percent of the County's population owns 10 acres or more and so are eligible to run for 5 of the 7 Board positions in that county. Neither the Oregon SWCC nor OACD is interested in taking on this issue at the present time.
- The landfill committee is looking at two sites. Robin suspects they will decide on the "Moon pit" location. The county commissioners will decide.

The next board meeting will be at 6-8pm on April 18th, at the East Bend Public Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm

Erin Kilcullen

Erin Kilcullen, General Manager



DESCHUTES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting –March 21st, 2024
 Meeting location: Bend East Side Library and Zoom

Motions Made	Vote Result
<i>Motion #1 made by William Kuhn, seconded by Andrew Aasen to approve the February 22, 2024 board meeting minutes.</i>	unanimous approval.
<i>Motion #2 made by William Kuhn, seconded by Andrew Aasen to approve the February 27, 2024 Special Meeting minutes.</i>	unanimous approval.
<i>Motion #3 made by William Kuhn, seconded by Robin Vora that the board has received the February financial report.</i>	unanimous approval.

Addendum: Motions of the Board Meeting – March 21st, 2024

Exhibit A

Program Updates February 2024

Irrigation Water Management (IWM)

- ARPA
 - 15 projects will be funded
 - 10 projects completed
 - Total Project Costs: \$488,040
 - Total Costs Reimbursed: \$200,000
 - Acres Treated: 73.6
 - 13 financial agreements signed
- Western SARE Grant
 - Todd has been making great strides with this grant. He is completing the IWMP management technical guides and discussing publishing the IWM curriculum. Todd is working towards being the lead organization in publishing, coordinating, and hosting this curriculum.

Forest Health and Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Joint Chiefs Buttes to Basins
 - The District has received a signed grant agreement from the USFS for \$125,000 for outreach, education, and monitoring for forest health and wildfire risk projects. These funds will have an expiration date of June 1, 2027. Jena has been collaborating with Lars and a videographer to develop a video on the work being completed on private lands.

Manure Exchange Program

- 61 landowners have signed up for this program as manure providers.

Pasture Exchange Program

- 22 landowners interested in leasing pasture
- 6 landowners willing to lease their land

Riparian Restoration/Watershed Health

- Indian Ford Creek – Bureau of Reclamation Grant
 - Develop a new watershed group to address riparian and watershed resource concerns. This group includes USFS, Deschutes Land Trust, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and private landowners
 - Perform and create a baseline assessment on public land
 - Perform a private land stream assessment on 10 private properties
 - Outreach to all landowners within the Watershed has been conducted. There has been interest in participating from 20 landowners.
- Juniper Legislation – HB 2010
 - DSWCD received \$125,000 in funding to assist landowners with Juniper removal projects to enhance watershed health and water savings. Tom is taking the lead on this project, and we are pursuing collaboration with DLT or Desert Creek Ranch.
- USFWS Partners Program
 - DSWCD is partnering with Black Butte Ranch to treat Reed Canary Grass on their property. This is a pilot project and will span over three years. The first weed spraying occurred in October 2023. The next treatment will occur in the spring of 2024.

Agricultural Water Quality

- Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) grant awarded to collaborate with landowners along the Upper and Little Deschutes Rivers to address agricultural water quality concerns. ODA has completed the field evaluation and held the partner meeting.
- Erin and Jena have performed their first round of outreach to landowners. There has been no response. Erin will be pursuing these efforts more this spring.
- Erin has completed and submitted the monitoring plan to ODA and OWEB. Monitoring efforts will begin in April 2024 with the assistance of Klamath SWCD and Oregon Institute of Technology. These monitoring efforts will be performed monthly for 2 years.

Small Grants:

- Pollinator Health/Native Vegetation - completed
- Guzzler installation
 - Erin and Jena have met and talked with 5 interested landowners to install 5-7 guzzlers on 1,000+ acres of private land near Shevlin Park. The grant has been awarded and landowners are currently installing their guzzlers.
- Water Quality
 - Norris flood to sprinkler: The project will eliminate flood irrigation on 7 acres by installing a pond and sprinkler system that will reduce excess water and nutrient runoff from entering the Deschutes River. This project has been completed.
 - Brown water quality improvement grant. The project will convert 6.5 acres of flood irrigation to sprinklers, pipe 800 feet of open irrigation ditch and line an existing leaking pond. Construction of this project has started and should be completed by April 2024.
- Riparian Health
 - Erin is partnering with Think Wild Beaver works on a riparian planting project at La Pine State Park that will take place in the spring and fall 2024.

Urban Agriculture

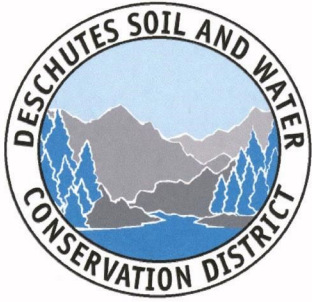
- The District has received the Urban and Community Grant from NACD. Jena will be managing this grant and is working with 4 community gardens and Bend Urban Gardens. The District has hired Bend Urban Gardens to develop and implement a 3-part workshop series at 3 community gardens.

Renewable Energy

- The District has been awarded the Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants as the lead applicant in partnership with Sparks NW and other SWCD throughout Oregon.

Dark Skys

- The District has been awarded a grant through the Central OR Future Fund Program. DSWCD, International Dark-Skys Association (IDA-Oregon), and our Central Oregon partners are collaborating on a community-wide initiative to highlight the importance and solutions related to dark skies and Astro tourism through outreach, education, and implementation of projects.



DESCHUTES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Strategic Plan Partner Meetings - January & February 2024

Meeting location: Bend East Side Library, Bend OR

- DSWCD Partner Meetings
 - DSWCD has developed a Strategic Plan and held three meetings with Partner organizations to receive feedback and input and discuss the role of the SWCD in various natural resource programs. DSWCD is hoping to understand what conservation needs exist in the county, where the District can assist and enable partners in existing conservation programs, and in what areas can the District expand (or limit) our involvement.
 - This strategic plan is designed to guide the organization's activities, foster environmental conservation, and enhance assistance to residents within its boundaries. This strategic plan serves as a roadmap for both current and future endeavors of the organization and aims to establish priorities and annual work plans. It is hoped by the district that this strategic plan will offer direction to the staff and board members, ensuring that progress is made toward advancing the district’s mission, vision, and goals.
- Attendees
 - In total, partner meetings drew 45 attendees from 29 partner organizations across Central Oregon.
 - Partner organizations included:
 Black Butte Ranch, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID), City of Bend Utility, Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC), Deschutes County, Deschutes Land Trust (DLT), Deschutes National Forest Service (USFS), Deschutes SWCD, East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS), Energy Trust of Oregon, Friends of Family Farmers, High Desert Food & Farm Alliance (HDFFA), Jefferson SWCD, Oregon Dept. Agriculture (ODA), OSU Extension, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Environmental Center (TEC), Think Wild/Beaver Works, Upper Deschutes River Communities (UDRC), Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), USDA-NRCS, Wy'East RC&D, Oregon Dept. Forestry (ODF), Oregon Water Resources Dept. (OWRD), National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODWF), Sage Con Partnership
- Partner Meeting Discussion Summary:
 - DSWCD has identified 10 natural resource programs (See below). During these meetings, the District asked partners to participate in an interactive activity where they wrote and discussed their roles in these programs, work they are doing, work that is needed, and ways that the DSWCD can provide assistance.

Water Quantity	Forest Health and	Soil Health and	Wildlife Habitat	Invasive Weeds
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	Wildfire Risk Reduction	Regenerative Agriculture	and Pollinators	
Water Quality	Watershed Restoration	Renewable Energy	Neighborhood Sustainability and Urban Ag	Natural Resource Education and Outreach

- Key Takeaways and needs for Deschutes County from partner discussions:
 - Weeds (County Weed Coordinator)
 - Coordinating efforts between all partners
 - Information Hub
 - Education across all natural resources
 - Plenty of work to be done
 - Working with small landowners and cross boundaries
 - Technical Assistance
 - Coordinating with private landowners and partners and funding sources

- Summary of Strategies from Partner meetings:

DSWCD compiled all the information and discussions from all three partner meetings and summarized the existing and needed strategies within the 10 programs in the chart below.

Water Quality and Quantity	Forest Health and Wildfire Risk Reduction
Existing Strategies	Existing Strategies
Water Resource Management and Efficiency	Wildfire Risk Reduction
Ecosystem Health and Stewardship	Community Preparedness & Training
Education, Research, and Financial Incentives	Innovative Approaches & Collaboration
Needed Strategies	Needed Strategies
Collaborative Approach:	Support Services
Technical Assistance and Education	Education & Outreach
Monitoring and Evaluation	Fire Risk Management
Watershed Restoration	Renewable Energy
Existing Strategies	Existing Strategies
Invasive Species Management	Energy Efficiency Improvements in Rural & Urban Zones
Promote Native Riparian Health	Technical Assistance & Incentives for Renewables
Protect and Improve Fish & Wildlife Habitat	
Needed Strategies	Needed Strategies
Vegetation Management	Education for Landowners
Support for Landowners	Innovative Approaches & Collaboration
Invasive Species Management	
Soil Health & Regenerative Agriculture	Wildlife Habitats & Pollinators
Existing Strategies	Existing Strategies
Education & Research on Soil Health	Pollinator Habitat Enhancement
Technical Assistance and Education	Collaborative Efforts for Habitat Connectivity
	On-Farm Pollinator Habitats
Needed Strategies	Needed Strategies
Conservation Easements	Dark Sky Protection
Soil Health Improvement Initiatives	Pollinator Habitat Creation
Support for Regenerative Agriculture	Native Plant Promotion
Neighborhood Sustainability & Urban Ag.	Invasive Weeds
Existing Strategies	Existing Strategies
School & Local Garden Programs	Noxious Species Management
Technical Assistance and Education	Weed Management Research & Education
	Noxious Weed Education for Homeowners
Needed Strategies	Needed Strategies
Food Processing Solutions	Coordination & Collaboration
Support for School Gardens & Education	Funding Allocation
	Education & Outreach
Natural Resource Education and Outreach	
Existing Strategies	
Youth Natural Resource Education Programs	
Needed Strategies	
Outreach Assistance	
JEDI Materials	

**Deschutes County SWCD
Board Meeting Report
February 1st, 2024 to February 29th, 2024**

Grant Monies Received this Month:

Western SARE	\$ 16,016.53
NACD 2022	\$ 22,656.25
	\$ -
	\$ -
Total Grant Monies In	<u>\$ 38,672.78</u>

Expenses:

Payroll & Taxes	\$ 20,333.81	
Personnel	\$ 1,342.12	
Office	\$ 156.56	Zoom, Adobe
Utilities	\$ 109.34	
Mileage/Travel	\$ 247.23	
Other: Contracted Services	\$ -	
Professional Fees	\$ -	
Bank Charges	\$ 16.00	
Rents	\$ 89.00	
Annual Dues	\$ 501.00	
Advertising/News Press	\$ 1,000.00	Videos
Supplies	\$ -	
Interest	\$ 8.84	
Professional Fees	\$ 498.00	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 24,301.90</u>	

Checking Account Balance EOM: \$ 406,585.20

Notes for Month:

Deschutes Soil & Water Conservation District
Profit & Loss
February 2024

	<u>Feb 24</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
GRANTS REVENUE	38,672.78
Total Income	<u>38,672.78</u>
Gross Profit	38,672.78
Expense	
Other	810.32
Unrestricted Expenses	8.84
60900 · EXPENSES	
62150 · Bank Charges	16.00
68311 · Contracted Services	1,498.00
68313 · Materials & Supplies	45.58
Total 60900 · EXPENSES	<u>1,559.58</u>
66000 · PERSONNEL	
Payroll Expense	
Insurance Stipend	621.27
Payroll	17,912.53
Payroll Taxes	2,421.28
Travel/ Mileage	247.23
Total Payroll Expense	<u>21,202.31</u>
66000 · PERSONNEL - Other	720.85
Total 66000 · PERSONNEL	<u>21,923.16</u>
Total Expense	<u>24,301.90</u>
Net Ordinary Income	14,370.88
Net Income	<u><u>14,370.88</u></u>