



## MINUTES

### YAMHILL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 7:30am – Miller Woods Conference Room, McMinnville, Oregon

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Directors

Barbara Boyer  
Gordon Dromgoole  
Glen Grauer  
Mark Huff  
Jesse Lange  
Sam Sweeney

##### Associate Directors

Stan Christensen  
Dave Cruickshank

##### SWCD Staff

Dalena Gagatko  
Tim Stieber

##### Other

Gordon Cook, YC Roadside  
Ken Hale, NRCS  
John Balwit  
Rob Tracey

#### 1) CALL TO ORDER

Sam Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

#### Additions to agenda:

Tim added Miller Woods meeting room under district management.

Tim added Mountain Lion Foundation event sponsor under education.

Tim added M-37 letter request under land use.

Tim added annual calendar and Chegwyn update under district management.

Sam passed around the activity notebook and asked that the board put down what they had attended.

Introductions were made.

#### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim said that under 7A it says grand instead of grant. Gordon Cook said county road standard was written in 1975 rather than 1985.

*Action: Barbara Boyer moved to approve the November 2006 board meeting minutes as corrected. Jesse Lange seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion.*

#### 3) APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

In response to Sam's question Tim said the payment related to the Stucky project was to a contractor that did earth moving.

*Action: Glen Grauer moved to approve the November 2006 Treasurer's report. Barbara Boyer seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion.*

## **6) NEW BUSINESS**

Attachment 3: 2006-2007 audit services contract

It was noted that this is the standard contract they send us each year.

Gordon moved and Glen seconded that we approve the auditing contract.

## **7) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A) District Management Report**

Attachment 4: Grants and Contracts

Tim referred to the attachment and said that he will try to include a report like this in each month's board packet in an effort to keep the board apprised of the activities of district staff. He reviewed the grants and proposals listed in the attachment. Tim said that we entered into a rental agreement for the Miller Property, and signed an easement agreement with the Hutchisons. Tim said that the monitoring report for the Gundermans was signed, and we completed a project with the Lehmans.

Attachment 5: ERC Policy Changes

Tim said that this is an effort to clarify a couple of things in the employee policy manual. He reviewed the question with how we grant holiday leave for employees that work less than a 40-hour work week. Mark suggested referring to the federal guidelines that apply and bringing that information back to the board as a suggestion.

Tim said that the second change proposed for the policy manual is the rate for room reimbursement. Ken suggested looking at the federal I&E to get a rate. Mark noted that the federal rates are flexible according to the location. Stan said that the state rates are assigned by location, similar to the federal rates. Mark said that the federal rates are flexible according to circumstances and he suggested adding that to the policy.

Meetings at Miller Woods

Tim said that after meeting with a Ken Friday at Yamhill County planning it was discovered that the miller woods conference room is not zoned for public meetings. He said they are willing to allow currently scheduled meetings while the application for zoning change is in process. In response to Gordon's question Tim said that the new zoning will apply to approximately five acres, and would be public zoning. Discussion ensued.

It was agreed that we would continue to have our district meetings at Miller Woods while the zoning application was completed. All other meetings will be scheduled to occur at the USDA service center until the zoning change at Miller Woods is final.

### **B) Land Use**

Attachment 6: Land use table

Tim passed around the land use applications whose deadlines for comment had already passed. Discussion ensued.

Tim reviewed the applications that were received after the packets went out and then passed them around for the board to review. He said that stock letters would go out to the landowners filing to divide as a result of a m-37 approval. Discussion ensued.

In response to Gordon's question Tim said he hadn't looked at soils for any of the applications.

#### M-37 Letter Request

Tim said that we established an easement on the Hutchison property. A week later he received an email from the Hutchisons stating that their neighbor was filing a M-37 claim to establish 50 home sites. The Hutchisons were asking if the board would take a stand on the issue of M-37 and write a letter requesting a stay. Discussion ensued regarding the infrastructure needed for developments in rural areas. Gordon Cook suggested checking the county website for updated infrastructure requirements. Discussion ensued regarding when M-37 claims should be allowed.

*Action: Glen Grauer moved that Tim draft a letter requesting that there be a stay on Measure 37 related development, and forward to the board for review and approval. Jesse seconded.*

Gordon suggested the letter state that the things that really bother us are the big subdivisions, not development on substandard land.

In response to Dave's question it was noted that the letter would be sent to the state senators. Rob suggested sending it to the county commissioners requesting that they send it on with their support.

*The board unanimously approved the motion.*

#### C) Miller Woods

John said that we had a steering committee meeting the other day that was productive. He said we have been moving ahead with developing education stations on the property. John said that there was discussion on the subject of a 'friends of' group that would be developed to assist with fundraising and other things on the property. John said we have looked at website design and have obtained a domain name.

#### D) Noxious Weed Control

Sam said that the governor's budget has increased for weed control.

Dave said that he saw two signs on Powell Butte Road that said 'Control Noxious Weeds – it's your responsibility.' It was suggested that the district look into placing signs like this in the County.

There was discussion on the SWCD signs that border the county. Jesse suggested putting the website on the signs. It was noted that a statewide committee is being formed to look at design and conformity for these signs.

There was discussion on weed control by small landowners and in public spaces.

## 8) CURRENT EVENTS

### A) Forestry

There was nothing to discuss at this time.

### B) Legislative

Gordon said that there is an issue with removing aggregate from prime farmland. He said this has been difficult to get through the state legislature. He suggested that the SWCD take a stand in the area of gravel removal. Barbara said that the Western Coalition is creating a committee to address legislative issues and would like a representative from every SWCD board to be on it.

Stan said that according the front page of the Capitol Press the governor has asked for more money for agriculture.

Gordon said that the city of McMinnville has done a study and determined that they need to have another supply of water in case something happens. He discussed this further and suggested that the district provide input to the city on where they should get their water. He suggested that the district address this formally in a letter. He will bring this back before the board in the future.

### C) Water Issues

This topic was covered in earlier conversation.

### D) Education and Outreach

Barbara said that at the OACD convention she spoke with other districts about their education and outreach programs and thinks that this district is falling short. She suggested a booth at the farmer's market, trading off or working with YBC to staff it for the 19 weeks each year. She also suggested doing a survey at the market. Sam suggested getting the education committee together to review what we are currently doing and what we could be doing.

Tim said that the district received a request from the Mountain Lion Foundation, a group that does public education related to Mountain Lions. He passed around information on the foundation. There was discussion regarding cougar, bobcat, and other wild cat sightings. In response to Mark's question Tim said that they asked if the district would arrange for and pay for a place for them to have a meeting. Rob explained that he spoke with the lady representing the foundation and that they are looking for local sponsors to help them provide training.

Mark suggested that the district provide regular training series to the public. He said that if a program is part of a series it makes us neutral on any subject. Gordon suggested an economist to speak on the demise of the sheep and cow industry in the county.

There was further discussion on whether the district would be perceived as advocates

of the mission of the Mountain Lion Foundation by sponsoring this event.

Mark Huff spoke about his time with the district. He said he has learned much in his twelve years with the district. He said that this is an organization that functions really well. It is a great team that does a lot on a small amount of funds. Stan said that the board would make Mark a director emeritus at the next meeting. Mark said he wants to keep in touch and be of help as his schedule permits. Stan suggested that the education committee take note of Mark as a source to discuss national parks.

Mark left at 9:20am.

Tim said that the Mountain Lion Foundation would be in the area in March. He suggested that the district present subjects that the public is talking about. Ken suggested that Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife be included in this talk to provide balance to the subject. It was agreed that if we could pull in a ODFW we would proceed with sponsoring this event. Sam suggested that Tim work with Barbara to organize this event. John suggested asking MCM to cover the event.

#### Attachment 7: Training reports

Tim referred to the training reports included in the packet. He said that he presented at the OACD meeting on Miller Woods and how it came to be donated to the district.

It was noted that the second training report was for a workshop that Amie attended. There was discussion on what was covered at the workshop.

### 9) STAFF REPORTS

Attachment 8: Staff Reports

Sam referenced the staff reports included in the board packets.

### 10) BOARD DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Tim said that our Cooperator of the Year, the Ruddenclaus, won the Basin award.

Stan said he signed two conservation plans – one CREP and one for pasture management.

### 11) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

Ken referred to the agency report in the packets. He said that the NRCS and SWCD offices are moving over the next few days. Ken said that they have been working with landowners in CSP which has been uncomfortable due to the lack of budget for the program. Ken said that people with wetland compliance issues will be handled by private consultants now.

YBC

An YBC representative was not in attendance.

FSA

An FSA representative was not in attendance.

RC&D



An RC&D representative was not in attendance.

OSU Ext.

An OSU Extension representative was not in attendance.

ODA

An ODA representative was not in attendance.

**12) Public Comment**

Gordon said the road advisory committee had a work session last month. They are considering prioritizing road resurfacing by the classification of the road. He said they are working in the NE corner of the county for the 07-08 projects.

**13) ADJOURNMENT**

Sam adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dalena Gagatko, Yamhill SWCD, Office Administrator*