



DESCHUTES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes – May 16th, 2024

Meeting location: East Side Bend Library

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 (Alfalpa)	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, Brian Lepore, Amy Hensley

Staff present: Erin Kilcullen, General Manager; Jena Thomas, Programs & Operations Coordinator

Agency attendees: Lars Santana; NRCS District Conservationist, Nina Caldwell; ODA

Other attendees: Al Hrynshyn; Upper Willamette SWCD co-chair, Lily Leitermann; Upper Willamette SWCD Conservation Programs Manager

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 6:01pm; all attendees introduced themselves.
2. Public Comments:
3. Agency Reports:
 - a. NRCS
 - Lars has been working with Tom and Todd to collaborate on the Irrigation water management workload in Jefferson County. Todd and Tom will be assisting with completing Conservation Plans for Jefferson SWCD.
 - Lars has been in conversation with the US Forest Service on the Crooked River National Grasslands about doing a Joint Chiefs project on the grasslands, focusing on Juniper removal.
 - He has also met with DRC to discuss the Smith Rock RCPP. They are approaching the end of funding on the 5-year project. They are currently in year 3 out of 5 and are trying for a renewal. This will extend the project another 5 years and will provide an opportunity to expand the treatment area.
 - b. ODA
 - SIA Restoration funds will open again August 5th
 - They will not be subject to a cultural resource assessment

- ODA will be going digital. This will affect SIA annual reports.
- 4. Upper Willamette SWCD Talk about Tax Base
 - Deschutes SWCD is hoping to learn from UWSWCD's experience with obtaining a tax base. Erin consulted the County Assessor and is considering a tax base of \$.07, which would average between \$19-\$20/year for the homeowner in Deschutes County.
 - UWSWCD pursued a tax of \$.07 which seemed appropriate for their polling base. They recommend staying below \$.10 for public perception.
 - Lily recommends leveraging our partnerships to help the campaign. A tax base would be beneficial to partners.
 - Lily estimates \$60,000-\$80,000 was spent initially to fund the campaign. UWSWCD took out a bridge loan of \$500,000 initially. After a year, they began developing programs. Program development included polling the district for public needs and wants prior to voting. Results of the poll informed the long-range strategic plan for the district.
 - Lily noted that board involvement will be critical for a successful campaign and the district should set up a PAC ASAP and with support from partners.
- 5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
 - a. **Motion #1 made by William Kuhn, seconded by James Warren to approve the April board meeting minutes.** Rollcall vote: unanimous approval.
- 6. Approval of receiving April financial Report: See Exhibit A.
 - a. **Motion #2 made by James Warren, seconded by William Kuhn to approve that the Board has recieved the April financial report.** Rollcall vote: unanimous approval.
- 7. Program Updates: See Exhibit B.
- 8. Action Items
 - a. Annual Meeting Resolution
 - Motion #3 made by Brian Lepore, seconded by William Kuhn to approve the Annual Meeting Resolution.**
 - b. Garden Fair – June 1st Erin would like to see if any Board members could assist with working at the June Garden Fair.
 - c. Annual Budget Review: Erin presented a rough draft of the 24-25 Annual Budget for the Board to review before approval at the Annual Meeting in June.
 - d. District Enhancement Committee
 - Next Steps:
 - Finalize Strategic Plan
 - Develop a timeline and set up one on one meetings with cities and county officials
 - Campaign
 - Marketing
 - Editorials in newspapers
 - Polling questionnaire
 - Ballot measure
 - Anything else?
- 9. Directors' Reports
 - a. William Kuhn
 - William is still seeking a replacement for his board position.
 - b. Jeff Rola
 - None
 - c. Brian Lepore
 - Brian has been attending the COID board meetings.

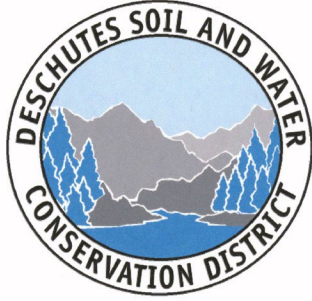
- d. James Warren
 - James is preparing his field for the season. He has discussed a tax base amongst residents in Alfalfa and feels the sentiment is overall positive.
- e. Amy Hensley
 - Amy is in the midst of planting season and has started attending the farmer's market. She is working with HDFFA to do a site tour of her property and collaborate with Neighbor Impact.

The next board meeting will be the District's Annual Meeting on June 18th. It will begin at 9 AM at the Sisters Fire Station followed by a field tour and lunch.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Erin Kilcullen

Erin Kilcullen, General Manager



**DESCHUTES COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Meeting – May 16th, 2024

Meeting location: East Side Bend Library

Motions Made	Vote Result
<i>Motion #1 made by William Kuhn, seconded by James Warren to approve the April board meeting minutes.</i>	unanimous approval.
<i>Motion #2 made by James Warren, seconded by William Kuhn to approve that the board received the April financial report.</i>	unanimous approval.
<i>Motion #3 made by Brian Lepore, seconded by William Kuhn to approve the Annual Meeting Resolution.</i>	unanimous approval.

Addendum: Motions of the Board Meeting – May 16th, 2024