

Monday, January 8, 2024  
6:00-7:30 PM Board Meeting  
To join Zoom Video Conference:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84468250202?pwd=Rk5sRERSZXI6WVW0UmJIWEFBcDIHUT09>  
Phone: 1-669-900-6833  
Meeting ID: 844 6825 0202  
Passcode: 640956

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### In Attendance

Board Members Present: Nate Johnson, Greg Jones, Eliza Mason, Aubrey Cloud, Marcella Henkels, Kerry Hastings

Board Members Absent: David Barron, Bob Morris (Emeritus), Henry Storch (Emeritus)

Associate Directors Present: Rana Foster

Associate Directors Absent: Indira Kulkarni, NAYPW Student Associate Director

Staff Present: Holly Crosson, Michael Ahr, Teresa Matteson, Donna Schmitz, Candace Mackey (minutes) Sara Roberts

### Call to Order - Johnson (6:02pm)

### Introductions, Public Comments, Announcements, Additions/Changes to Agenda

Introductions: None

Public Comment: None

Announcement: None

Addition to agenda: None

### CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approve draft Minutes from December 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 Regular Board Meeting**
- **Approve Financials (11/30/23)**
- **FY 23 Audit Action Plan-no action needed, submitted to Sec. of State, courtesy copy; audit already approved in December 2023 by the Board of Directors.**

Discussion: Please correct Joyce Loper to have USDA and OSU as her associations.

MOTION: To Approve Consent Agenda: Nate Johnson      Second: Greg Jones

Results: Pass 6/0

- **Appoint Officers**

Do officers currently in roles want to continue?

Nate-Chair-Yes

Marcella-Vice Chair-Yes

Kerry-Secretary-Yes

Treasurer office is currently vacant but Johnson and Henkels are sharing Treasurer duties temporarily

In order to appoint these officers, nominations should be made:

MOTION: To nominate Nate Johnson to the position of BSWCD Board Chair-Greg Jones  
Second: Marcella Henkels  
Discussion: None  
Results: Pass 6/0

MOTION: To nominate Marcella as BSWCD Board Vice President-Nate Johnson Second: Kerry Hastings  
Discussion: None  
Results: Pass 6/0

MOTION: To nominate Kerry Hastings as BSWCD Board Secretary-Marcella Henkels Second: Nate Johnson  
Discussion: None  
Results: Pass 6/0

- **Questions about January 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting?**

Nate is asking about how much time he should speak for during the annual meeting. Holly Crosson goes over the draft agenda for the meeting. Kudos from Nate Johnson about the Annual Report focusing on Donna's powerful photos in her annual report article. Menu? Candace Mackey shares caterer Wallace Jennings' menu.

- **Discuss and vote on funding for Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program (TEIP) for FY 24 or FY25; determine amount to fund.**

Discussion: Greg Jones mentions his background as a psychologist in AZ working with Tribes and is complimentary about the work Joe Scott does. He is concerned about the project's focus on geography that might not be in Benton County and feels the work focus is not closely related enough to the District's work on soil and water conservation. He expressed there could be repercussions and questions about funding from constituents.

Nate Johnson lays out his opinion about the need to fund this program with relation to BSWCD's responsibilities within the community of bridge building, investing in a displaced people's program, and learning with conservationists operating in a different mode and different way. There is a possibility that constituents would disagree about funding, but he feels that he could defend the investment. He also doesn't believe that the people in his area would be against funding this program. He feels that in the early phase of this program it would not negatively impact finances. Conservation is also an investment in people as much as it is in equipment and program materials.

Aubrey Cloud thanks everyone for their input and validates the issues that Greg Jones has brought up. He says our task is to steward the land, and the connection of the people receiving funding are stewards, unlike regular contractors, who might have no connection to the land. Indigenous knowledge of all kinds already contains stewardship of the land principles woven through it. He believes that this would create dividends down the road.

Question as to current fiscal year allocation listing in the budget:

For the FY24 (current): A budget line item of \$6,000 for this program under the Community Conservation Program (CCP) has already been approved by the Budget Committee and Board. Holly Crosson suggests if funding continues in the future, it should be in the budget as support for the TEIP specifically.

Teresa Matteson praises Greg Jones for bringing this up because the farmers she works with are also very concerned with how they spend their money and how others in their industry spend their money. She brings up the relationship with NRCS, and how they have categorized conservation priorities in the past: SWAPA Soil Water Air Plants & Animals and have now added H (Human) and E (Energy) and she believes that if we must justify this internship funding, at a federal level, things are changing, which could reflect well upon this investment.

Kerry Hastings mentions she has surveyed a few of her constituents, and they have been supportive of BSWCD supporting this venture.

MOTION: Nate Johnson moves that BSWCD funds the TEIP internship program through the Long Tom Watershed Council with \$6,000 in FY2024 using unrestricted funds. Second: Aubrey Cloud

Any other discussion? No

Results: Pass 5/1

Question of what to do for the future funding. Nate Johnson understands that we could support the program with a motion here to appear in the budget, OR it could just be entered into the FY25 budget for review by the Budget Committee. Board consensus is to have Holly Crosson to put it in the FY25 budget and discuss at the Budget Committee Meeting this year.

- **Review updated Measurable Objectives for Strategic Plan**

Presented in the packet. Nate Johnson commends the upkeep of this document, and it gives the Directors a real tool for understanding what is being done and a great way to translate it to constituents if need be. Marcella Henkels and Greg Jones agree. Aubrey Cloud has a question about Objective 1a. to clarify if this 1 farmer per year, or 1 farmer total. It means one farmer total—but can mean more! Nate Johnson asks for clarification of collaboration with Grande Ronde Tribe about Willamette River Priorities meeting Michael Ahr had. He explains more about the group and their collaboration.

- **Discuss draft support letter for Legislative Concept 198 for Oregon Invasive Species Council funding.**

Michael Ahr explains the funding that's proposed in the legislature, and by writing this letter, we are expressing support for the full body of this bill, but our area of support is specific to funding the OR Invasive Species Council. The purpose of presenting this to the board is to ask for a letter of support that may be needed in relation to this legislative concept before the February board meeting.

MOTION: Nate Johnson moves to approve the draft letter of support for Legislative Second:

Eliza Mason

Discussion: None

Result: Pass 6/0

- **Set date for Personnel and Finance Committee (PFC) Meeting in March of 2024 to review employee compensation/benefits**

Holly Crosson will survey a time for the week of March 18th to other members.

- **Questions from Board on BSWCD and NRCS Activities**-Nate Johnson asks about NPS volunteer sign ups. Sara Roberts reports most stations are fully staffed, there are a few gaps

that she believes are going to be filled, many of which are new volunteers set up for the new volunteer training.

- **Other Board Business**-Indira Kulkarni has sent in a Budget Committee application and will be appointed in the February Board meeting. Another application for the Budget Committee came through from a member of the public. Joyce Loper, who Marcella Henkels suggested is unable to participate this year, but perhaps next year. Holly Crosson mentions Maya Abels will step down after her term ends in December of 2024 so there will be a vacancy.
- **Next regular board meeting will be, February 12, 2024**

**Meeting Adjourned - Johnson** (7:34pm)

DRAFT