



Klamath  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

541.883.6924 | 1945 Main Street, Suite 200 | Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 | [www.klamathswcd.org](http://www.klamathswcd.org)

## **KSWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 13th, 2024**

### **In Attendance:**

**Board Members:** Ken Masten, Jolene Moxon, Earl Miller, David Cone, Martin Kerns

**District Staff:** Will Natividad/DM, Alex Sharp/PM, Sam Fletcher/PM, Hanna Chittenden/PM

**Community/Agencies:** Michelle Sharp/SBC, Nina Caldwell/ODA, Josh Elke/NRCS, Charles Dehlinger/Public

**Meeting called to order at 12:32pm – Chairman Ken Masten**

Agenda Additions/Changes: None.

### **Old Business:**

- Approve February Minutes
- Approve February Financials

### **Motion 1: Motion to Approve February Minutes.**

**Motion:** Moxon

**Second:** Cone

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** 5 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

### **Motion 2: Motion to Approve February Financials.**

**Motion:** Cone

**Second:** Moxon

**Discussion:** David Cone asked about the outstanding \$21,000 in Quickbooks for the Capacity Grant- Michelle explained that was an error and we did receive those funds.

**Vote:** 5 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

**Motion 3: Motion to move the next board meeting to Friday, April 12, 2024 at 12:30 pm, so that district employees may attend a Restoration Workshop on the Scott River and Mid Klamath from April 9-11th.**

**Motion:** Moxon

**Second:** Miller

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** 5 Yes - Unanimous, Motion Passes

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**Motion 3: Motion to Approve Hanna Chittenden working remotely from Germany, as long as the SWCD is in compliance with all laws.**

**Motion: Miller**

**Second: Kerns**

**Discussion:** Hanna explained her job duties to the board and how they would work while she was overseas. Concerns were raised by the board and bookkeeper regarding security and privacy laws, but Will said that everything would be covered by the US Status of Forces Agreement. David Cone said that this situation was approached backwards, and that the board should have been consulted about this sooner. The board ultimately agreed that as long as the district is in compliance with all laws, that Hanna could telework from Germany.

**Vote: 4 Yes - Abstained- Cone, Motion Passes**

### **Reports:**

#### **SBC Report: Michelle Sharp**

Michelle presented the grant tracking sheet. There was a question about the SIA funding date that still needs to be updated to reflect the extension by ODA to fiscal year 2028. Also, Nick Trapper is still past due for No-Till Drill Accounts Receivable.

#### **NRCS Report: Josh Elke**

NRCS has selected two candidates for open positions. Their offer has been sent. Should they accept, the two new employees will be conservation planners. Additionally, an offer to a candidate for the ODFW Biologist partner position has been extended and is awaiting acceptance. Josh is working on a multiple year cooperative agreement with KSWCD and NRCS for staffing support. Josh has drafted the scope of work and is waiting to work with Will on establishing the financial budget. Once this is complete, the agreement can be approved in as little as a few weeks. The cooperative agreement would provide several hundred thousand dollars specifically for KSWCD staff to work with NRCS.

#### **FSA Report: Jaycie Schooler**

There are no new programs for the FSA. Their office has been slow. They are focusing on acreage reporting and current program deadlines.

#### **ODA Report: Nina Caldwell**

Nina informed the board that the LAC meetings were successful for the Klamath Headwaters. The draft is being finalized. Nina thanked Sam for providing notes summarizing the areas for improvement to complete Nina's Board of Agriculture report. The Lost River meeting is next week in the government building in downtown Klamath Falls, room 219 at 12pm. Nina also

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shared that ODAs are having conversations about switching quarterly reporting to annual or every six months. ODA is also working on new online systems to streamline which will require less paperwork. Nina was also happy to share that she is slowing down on compliance issues as there has not been as many reports or calls in recent weeks,

### **District Staff Report: Will Natividad**

Will is working on the long term plan for a cooperative agreement with Josh. Will and Hanna have computer access through NRCS and Hanna also has job authority approval. Alex is spending the majority of her time doing NRCS training which is funded through BIL funds for NRCS support in the Sprague. The district also has a cooperative agreement with USFWSP. District staff is still looking at wildfire mitigation funding. Will plans on applying for the OWEB Technical Assistance grant that is due April 29th. There are several site visits planned in the upcoming month including a juniper project with USFWS that would likely use all \$250K of planned funding. Will informed the board that the Klamath Lake Land Trust property in the Sprague is selling, hopefully opening the opportunity up for new plans and work. Will is working with OSU more as NRCS has CIS based on drought resilience and we would like to do more test plots for dryland foraged. Will would like to work with them and J.W. Kerns to have technical assistance workshops and demonstrations. After a question about what current funding looks like by community members, Will brought up a graph showing estimated funding throughout the year. Michelle asked about why funds increase in July's "worst case" scenario. Will said that Algoma should be done then and expects to be billing to USFWS more in July. Will stated he was thinking of hiring another part-time person since he was authorized for 5 full time employees and several hours are still not being used. David Cone asked whether there was going to be more checks to Civil Air Patrol and what grant is being charged. Will told him they are being charged to the SIA's. Will also said there may be one more check to cover another vegetation assessment at the end of the grant. Cone then asked about the CWRR grants' remaining funds and if the grant was closed. Will stated that the listed date was when the grant was expected to be closed, but is actually open until June 2025. Cone asked if the district was done working in Keno. Will said yes, the district applied for the ODF grant but was denied. The district was looking at applying to a BLM grant but didn't submit. Will talked to a few BLM employees but did not manage to get the grant done in time. Cone brought up potential fire fuel mitigation in the Bly Mt. area. Board questioned if it was possible/ dangerous. Ken Masten suggested working with the local fire chief as it is not an area people could or should go to alone. Ken asked for clarification about the virtual fencing. Will has a landowner willing to try as an experiment. USFWS was likely to fund. The traditional method would be over \$200K, virtual fencing is around \$60K. Michelle asked a question about how to try virtual fencing too. Will said maybe. District still had to see how it goes and if it is successful could probably evaluate her property later. Ken asked about water quality and locations where sampling was taking place.

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Will said the monitoring occurs at an island in the Sprague. Hanna is also providing monitoring to Deschutes SWCD.

### **Chair Report: Ken Masten**

Ken asked if anyone had gone to the ESA meeting. Cone said he had heard no water. Jolene agreed about no water. There is no water going to B and C rights. Ken reported on Clear Lake, saying it looked good, but Gerber and Drews reservoirs water levels were still low. Clear Lake headgates were supposed to be open if half full but until this year have not reached that mark.

### **New Business:**

#### **Teleworking:**

The board needed to discuss the approval or disapproval of allowing Hanna to telework from Germany. Hanna only comes into the office once a week now and plans on bringing electronics and her card to set up her office supplies in Germany. Ken asked about security and privacy, if it makes Hanna ineligible because of her handling of sensitive information. Will said all stuff should be covered by the US Status of Forces Agreement. Michelle asked about logging into government websites. Hanna said she does not need to and that Will or someone can log into any NRCS systems she has needed to in the past should she need something. Hanna presented a slideshow of her current work including OIT monitoring, CAP, CWMA Grasslands, CRP, Monitoring Plans with OIT in the Sprague and Deschutes. Hanna has trained the people and students to do the needed field work for monitoring and she does all of the remote work. NRCS and FSA have job authority approval and can provide grazing plans to landowners. As CWMA coordinator, she applies for money and coordinates the ideas to become projects. Essentially has laid the groundwork and trained on the ground partners to execute projects and can plan remotely. David Cone raised the question about productivity working remotely. He asked if we should have some sort of policy. David Cone said this was approached backwards because Will should have cleared the air and brought this matter up to the Board ahead of time, instead of making the decision without consulting the board, and now it has become awkward to discuss with Hanna present. Cone said Will never officially asked for approval because David would have been against it as he is not a fan of teleworking. There was a public question about what happens if transferred out of Germany. Hanna said they will be there for 3 years before they hear where they are going next.

#### **No-Till Drill:**

Will wanted to know if Landowners could tow the drill. The consensus was landowners would need their own insurance or Jolene mentioned the District could just at the contract that the landowner is liable. The option of creating a minimum acreage to use a certain drill clause, ensuring that only landowners with farm insurance can cover the cost of the newer and larger no

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till drill should something happen. Would the district need to be named as additionally insured on rental of landowners policy? The District decided to consult with a lawyer on the rental agreement. Jolene asked if Nick Trapper has paid yet, the answer was no and that SBC has still been sending monthly reminders.

**Move April Board Meeting:**

Will would like to move the April board meeting so that Will and Sam can attend an upcoming restoration tour of the Scott and mid-Klamath river that coincides with the currently scheduled meeting date. The board made a motion that was approved unanimously.

**Resignation and Appointing of Board Position:**

The board has two vacancies coming up in the 2024 re-election season and Ken wants to appoint Charles Dehlinger to David Kent's position as Kent would like to resign. Sam needs to check with Sandi to see what actions need to be taken.

**Public Comment:**

Michelle asked about specific funding that has come in and why most of Hanna's hours are being charged to the capacity grant. Will stated that Hanna is waiting for the grants she applied for to come in to charge those.

**Meeting is adjourned at 2:49 pm – Chair Ken Masten.**

**Minutes Approved as Written or Amended:**

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**KSWCD Chair**

**Date**

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**KSWCD Secretary/Treasurer**

**Date**

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