

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

**December 6, 2017**

**Convened 1:04 PM**

- Board voted to reject realtor proposals and to form a committee to look into building strategies.
  - Board approved the District's FY 16/17 Annual Report, a cost share request for a spring development, and a letter of support for The Freshwater Trust's In-Stream Leasing Program.
  - Garrett Duyck, NRCS, introduced Katie Pierson, ODFW Biologist on temporary assignment with NRCS to help with wildlife habitat in relation to farm programs.
  - Lissa Biehn, FSA, relayed reporting deadlines, Co. Committee elections, and to keep track of livestock losses if the weather turns bad.
- Adjourned: 3:00 PM

**January 3, 2018**

**Convened 1:04 PM**

- Rick Cypers presented the District's FY 16/17 Audit, pronouncing a clean opinion. Board approved.
  - Board voted to retain Bill Hammel as Chairman, Norm Lyda as Vice-Chairman, and Stan Shephard as Secretary/Treasurer. Pat Davis and Bryce Molesworth were re-appointed as Associates.
  - Board approved one cost share request for a spring development.
  - Board heard project updates from area watershed councils. Tatiana will be filling in for Abbie during her maternity leave.
  - Clinton Whitten, NRCS, reported on agency activities. He presented 5 CSP renewals for approval and signature. The Local Working Group is scheduled for Jan 17th.
  - Lissa Biehn, FSA, reported the two new County Committee members are: Megan Thompson North Wasco Co. and Bob Benton Jr. for Hood River Valley.
  - Robert Wallace, Wy'East RC&D, reported on his activities and that he is looking for some landowners to work with for his Advanced Precision Ag Project.
- Adjourned 2:50 PM

## Conservation Calendar

*Catch Wasco Co. SWCD on KODL Coffee Break at 10:00 am with Al Wynn, the 2nd Monday of each month! Unless otherwise noted, the SWCD Board Meeting is always the first Wednesday of the month.*

- Feb 1 Neighborhood Meetings: 9:00 AM-Antelope  
1:00 PM - Maupin
- Feb 2 OSU Ext Mid-Col Cherry Day, Discovery Center
- Feb 3 NCLA Annual Meeting, 5:30 PM, Sherman Co.
- Feb 7 SWCD Monthly Board Mtg, 1:00 PM, USDA Svc Center Conf Room
- Feb 9 Hood River Winter Hort Mtg, HR Best Western
- Feb 9 SDAO Annual Conference, Seaside
- Feb 15 SWCD Annual Meeting, 5:30 PM, Columbia Gorge Discover Center
- Feb 19 President's Day - Office Closed
- Mar 7 SWCD Monthly Board Mtg, 1:00 PM, USDA Svc Center Conf Room
- Apr 4 SWCD Monthly Board Mtg, 1:00 PM, USDA Svc Center Conf Room

Elected Directors			
Bill Hammel 296-9897	Phil Kaser 298-1091	Bob Krein 395-2697	
Norm Lyda 467-2273	Stan Shephard 544-2900	Charlie Ernst 467-2402	
Ken Bailey			
Associate Directors			
Pat Davis, Bryce Molesworth			
Directors Emeritus: Mel Omeg, Dan Carver and Dick Overman			
SWCD & NRCS Staff		541-296-6178 x3	FAX: 296-7868
SWCD District Manager:	Shilah Olson		
SWCD Project Manager:	Ron Graves		
SWCD Office Administrator:	Tammy Tripp		
SWCD Watershed Council Coordinator /Planner:	Abbie Forrest		
Field Office Assistant/FAST Coordinator:	Tatiana Taylor		
SWCD Planners:	Ryan Bessette, Josh Thompson, Karen Lamson		
NRCS District Conservationist:	Frank Cochran		
NRCS Soil Conservationist:	Clinton Whitten		
NRCS Soil Conservationist:	Garrett Duyck		
NRCS Soil Conservationist:	Misty Strayhorn		
Conservation Liason/Farm Bill Biologist:	Katie Pierson		
<i>GROUNDWORK is published six times a year and welcomes contributions from readers.</i>			
<i>Editor: Tammy Tripp</i>			

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Jan/Feb 2018

## Watershed Updates

For information on any of these watershed councils, please contact Tatiana Taylor, Wasco Co. SWCD at 541-296-6178 ext 117.



Abbie and her husband CJ welcomed their baby girl, Codie Shay Forrest, on January 14th. Abbie will be on maternity leave for the next couple of months. Tatiana Taylor has assumed her Watershed Coordinator duties in the interim. Congratulations Abbie!

## Coordinating Board

The Coordinating Board last met on November 1st. Abbie, Tatiana, and Pat Davis presented the Annual Report to the County Commissioners on December 6th. The next meeting hasn't been scheduled yet.

## Fifteenmile Watershed

Fifteenmile WS Council met on December 5th where the council received updates on the 15Mile Underground Storage Study, Annual Steelhead update, and a report on OWRD's continued groundwater monitoring efforts. January's meeting will include a snowpack update and status of current projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan 30, 2018, 3:00 PM, St. Alphonsus Parish Hall following the Neighborhood Meeting which begins at 1:00 PM.

## The Dalles Area Watershed

The Council met on January 10th. Presentations included updates on E.coli monitoring in Mill Creek and the Chenoweth Creek Focus Area. Next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2018 at 5:30 at The Dalles USDA Service Center.

## Mosier Watershed Council

Mosier WS Council met on January 24th. The council received an update on the Mosier Derailment Cleanup, the Mosier Deep Well Project, and the Well Assessments/Repairs. The next meeting hasn't been scheduled.

## Bakeoven/Buck Hollow and White River Watersheds

There will be a joint council meeting after the Maupin Neighborhood Meeting on February 1, 2018, 1:00 PM, Sage Canyon Raft Shop. The councils will receive updates on the South County RCPP, 3Mile Fish Screen, Forest Collaborative, and the Bakeoven Range Inventory.

**New Members** - The watershed councils are seeking new members. Watershed Councils play an important role in conservation in Wasco County. Council members identify key resource concerns in their watershed, find ways to solve those

concerns, and help direct funding and technical assistance from the Conservation District.

## 15Mile FAST

Sign-ups are now underway for the upcoming irrigation season. The deadline is March 2, 2018. Outreach will be sent to all affected landowners and Tatiana will be at the Neighborhood Meetings to answer any questions or concerns regarding the FAST Program.

## 2018 Neighborhood Meeting Schedule

- Jan 30 - 900 AM Wamic - Wamic School Community Ctr.  
1:00 PM Dufur - St. Alphonsus Parish Hall
- Feb 1 - 9:00 AM, Antelope - County Shop  
1:00 PM Maupin - Sage Canyon Raft Shop
- Farm and Ag Program updates from Wasco Co. SWCD, NRCS, FSA, Wy'East RC&D, and OSU Extension.

## Wasco Co. SWCD Annual Meeting

The District's Annual Meeting is set for Feb 15, 2018.  
Place: Columbia Gorge Discovery Center  
Registration/Social: 5:30 PM  
Dinner/Presentations: 6:00 - 8:30 PM  
Cost: \$20.00  
Entree Selections: Prime Rib or Chicken Cordon Bleu  
or Vegetarian Stuffed Portabella

RSVP: February 9, 2018 (4:00 PM)  
This year's keynote Speaker is Stacy Davies, Roaring Spring Ranch. Stacy is a leader in holistic land management practices that address the ranch's natural resource issues as well as take care of their economic bottom line. His management practices have not only increased sage grouse populations

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and reband trout, he's increased the herd carrying capacity of the land.

General public attendance is encouraged. It is a great opportunity to meet District Staff, area agricultural producers, and the members of Wasco County Watershed Councils.

### Service Center News

**FSA (Wasco Co./Hood River)** - Producers with base acres in the Ag Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program may enroll for the 2018 crop year. The enrollment period will end on Aug. 1, 2018. Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

FSA is accepting CCC-941 for 2017 and 2018. Producers must have the CCC-941 on file certifying their AGI compliance before program payments are issued.

Producers in South County impacted by the wildfire in Antelope, may be eligible for Emergency Conservation Program Assistance. Producers who have a loss may contact the local FSA County Office to request assistance from January 8, 2018 to February 7, 2018. For more information on any of these programs, contact Martha at 541-298-8559 ext 104.

**SWCD** - The District's FY 16/17 Annual Report is completed and can be found posted on the District's website.

**Mosier Wells** - The first deep well is finally nearing completion. OWRD has been on site this week conducting tests. M&M started on the first well replacement for commingling wells the week of January 22nd.

**Conservation Buffers** - The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), overseen by Farm Service Agency (FSA), continues to be one of the most effective ways landowners with creeks or streams have to address water quality issues. Increasing vegetation and farm animal exclusion through fencing, allows natural processes to take place that stabilize streambanks, filter pollutants, and improves habitat for native fish. Interested landowners can contact the conservation District at 541-296-6178 ext 3 for more information.

### Items of Interest/Upcoming Events

**Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group** - The Forest Collaborative has received a second OWEB grant in conjunction with Hood River's Collaborative (Stew Crew). The group is working on retained receipt application for fiscal year 2019.

**East Cascade Oaks Partnership** - The Partnership held an agency field trip on January 11th to look at various oak types to obtain info on management.

**Oregon Dept. of Ag** - David Losh, ODA, is reminding producers of the importance of the Census of Ag, a survey conducted every five years. They are currently collecting data for the 2017 crop year.

The information has been mailed, farmers and ranchers are asked to respond by February 5 to avoid follow-up phone calls. Producers can save time by going to <https://agcensus.usda.gov>. Accurate data is key to making decisions impacting producers at the local level.

**NCLA** - The NCLA annual dinner is Saturday, February 3, 2018, at the Grass Valley Pavilion. Social Hour at 5pm, dinner at 6pm. Tri Tip dinner includes Mashed Spuds, Cowboy Beans, Salad and Dessert. Cost is \$25.00. No host bar by Moody Tollbridge. A raffle will be held for a Yeti Cooler filled with some neat goodies. Main speaker is Preston Winn from Blue Mountain Community College and a representative from the Oregon Cattleman's Association. Music afterward provided by Scott Susi. RSVP Sherman OSU Extension at 541-565-3230

The Annual Bull Tour is scheduled for Friday, April 13th, more details to follow.

**OSU Extension** - The Mid-Columbia Cherry Day & MCAREC Research Symposium is February 2nd, at the Discovery Center, The Dalles. Steve Castagnoli, Mike Omeg, Megan Thompson and Stacey Cooper all worked hard to make this event happen. There is a full day agenda, which includes morning refreshments, compliments of Dahle's

Visit us on the web at [www.wascoswcd.org](http://www.wascoswcd.org)

Fruit Tree Network, and a hosted lunch by Wilson Orchard & Vineyard Supply and Burrows Tractor. For more information visit: [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/sites/default/files/2018\\_schedule\\_0.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/sites/default/files/2018_schedule_0.pdf)

**2017 Wasco County Crop Tour** - The date has been set for May 15, 2018. Details will be posted as soon as they become available.

### National Stewardship Week

The 2018 Stewardship theme is "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". Stewardship Week 2018 will take place April 29 - May 6. As in past years, Wasco SWCD will reach out to classrooms throughout Wasco County to make stewardship education materials available to teachers who request them.

Following Stewardship Week, the District hosts the annual Stewardship Poster Contest. Local winners receive a cash award and are eligible to enter the State level poster contest, held in the fall.

In 2017 we had 2 winners at the State level, in grades 8 and 10. Many teachers make the poster contest an annual event for their classrooms, however any student can enter the poster contest with parental permission.

Contact Karen, 541-296-6178 X121 at the Conservation District for more information.

### Small Grant Program

Landowners looking for financial help to prevent stream bank erosion, increase irrigation efficiency, or solve mud and manure problems may qualify for the Small Grant Program.

The Small Grant program is a competitive grant program that awards funds of up to \$15,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects. Depending on the size of the grant, recipients must provide 25% or 50% matching funds in the form of labor, materials and/or cash contributions. The 2018 funding cycle began in September and applications are accepted throughout the year.

For more information contact Shilah Olson at 541-296-6178 ext 105, or email her at [shilah.olson@or.nacdn.net](mailto:shilah.olson@or.nacdn.net).

### The Garden Plot

by Tammy Tripp



#### Living on the Land

The award winning Living on the Land publications published by OSU, are a joint effort between OSU Extension (Masterminded by our own Brian Tuck), ODA, WSU, and the Conservation District. These are typically two page straight-to-the-point publications that get to the heart of common ag topics.

Our newest in the series was published Nov 2017: Raising Rabbits for Meat.

This summer 'Getting Started with Sheep and Goats - Building a Flock or Herd' publication was a National Association of County Agricultural Agents Finalist and Regional Winner. It was also the Regional Winner for the audio recording. Providing Habitat for Native Pollinators was also a National Association of County Agricultural Agents Regional Winner both the publication and audio.

You can find the LOL publications here: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/series1>

### Wildflower Talk

by Kristin Currin, Humbleroots Nursery

#### Western Spiraea

*Spiraea douglasii*

Found growing in wet meadows and streambanks, Western Spiraea is a hardy, quick growing, colorful PNW native shrub. Providing excellent, dense habitat for birds, its bright pink clusters of flowers are favored by bumblebees and native pollinators. Western Spiraea is rhizomatous and helps to stabilize wet soils making it a good plant choice for riparian areas and rain gardens.

Note: This plant is available through the District's 2018 Annual Tree Sale - [www.wascoswcd.org](http://www.wascoswcd.org).



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