

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

October 3, 2018

Convened 1:04 PM

- Board reviewed and approved Resolution 10032018 Pertaining to Small Purchases; District policies 10-4 updating Expense Reimbursement Policy; and 12-1 District Property maintenance Policy. Board voted to dispose of the HMMV and a Honda ATV.
- The Board heard updates on the Mosier Deep Well and Mosier million Projects. it was noted that the final well in the Deep Well project was not approved for funding by OWRD, however there is an opportunity to speak directly in support of the project before grants are finalized. Two District Cost Share projects were approved.
- Board convened the Contract Review Board to review bids for aerial herbicide applicators.
- Board members were supportive of ODA reaching out to some landowners on 15Mile so selected sites affected by fire could be monitored for impact of fire on water quality.
- Dan Esposito, the new NRCS District Conservationist introduced himself and gave an update on their activities.
- Lissa Biehn, FSA, discussed assistance available for fire from FSA and approaching deadlines.
- Adjourned 3:45PM

Novmeber 7, 2018

Convened 1:01 PM

- The Board convened the contract review board to accept the mutual termination of the herbicide applicator contract with K-2 and enter into contract with Wilbur Ellis for aerial herbicide application for fire recover.
- The Board heard updates on projects, approved \$500 for sponsorship of Oregon's Environthon for school children, and selected nominees for 2017 Cooperator of the year.
- Dan Esposito, District Conservationist, discussed progress on EQIP funding for fire recovery and CSP renewals.
- Lissa Biehn, FSA CED, discussed staffing changes, and current programs.
- Adjourned 3:45PM

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.

- Dec 4 15Mile WS Council Mtg, 6:30 PM, Barlow Ranger District Office
- Dec 5 LAC Biennial Review, 10:00 AM, USDA Service Center, The Dalles
- Dec 5 SWCD Monthly Board Mtg, 1:00 PM, USDA Svc Center, The Dalles
- Dec 6 FSA County Committee Mtg, 9:00 AM, USDA Svc Center, The Dalles
- Dec 6 Wasco Co. Forest Collaborative, 1:00 PM, ODFW Screen Shop, Klindt Dr.
- Dec 12 The Dalles WS Council Mtg, 5:30 PM, USDA Svc Center, The Dalles
- Dec 25 Christmas Day - Office Closed
- Jan 1 New year's Day - Office Closed
- Jan 2 SWCD Monthly Board Mtg, 1:00 PM, USDA Svc Center, The Dalles

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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:	Dan Esposito
NRCS Soil Conservationist:	
NRCS Soil Conservationist:	Garrett Duyck
NRCS Soil Conservationist:	Misty Strayhorn
Conservation Liason/Farm Bill Biologist:	Katie Pierson
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<i>Editor: Tammy Tripp</i>	

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Watershed Updates

For information on any of these watershed councils, please contact Watershed Coordinator Abbie Forrest, Wasco Co. SWCD at 541-296-6178 ext 102.



Coordinating Board

The Coordinating Board held a check in meeting on November 7th and were presented the with FY 2017/2018 Annual Report. Abbie and Chair Pat Davis will be presenting the report to the Wasco County Commissioners on December 19th.

Fifteenmile Watershed

Fifteenmile Watershed Council held a Stakeholder meeting on November 6th. The meeting invited all Fifteenmile Irrigators in the Dufur Valley to attend this meeting and learn about the Managed Underground Storage project and share their thoughts and concerns with GSI as well as council members. The next council meeting will be on December 4th.

The Dalles Area Watershed

The council has not met since their meeting on September 12th. Their next meeting is scheduled for December which will include updates and follow up from the meeting in September, as well as an update from ODFW on their fish monitoring in Mill Creek.

Mosier Watershed Council

Mosier Watershed Council met back on October 24th. The council heard a brief update from Mike Igo on the Mosier Derailment restoration plan from the City as well as plans for planting acorns. Other updates included Mosier Aquifer Levels, and an update on the Mosier Million project from OWRD. GSI also provided an update on Well Evaluations and started the discussion on next steps for the Deep Well project and outreach. The next council meeting will be held on January 23rd.

White River Watershed Council

The White River Watershed council met on September 26th. Updates were provided on the Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group, Watershed Condition Classification tool, status of the RCPP and the Juniper Flat Piping Project. The meeting brought out a few familiar faces as well as new ones that were recruited to the council. Their next meeting will be scheduled to coincide with the neighborhood meetings.

Bakeoven/Buck Hollow Watershed Council

They do not have a meeting scheduled. SWCD and NRCS

technicians are hard at work gathering inventories on rangeland for the recent OWEB grant as well as working on fire restoration efforts. Their next council meeting will be scheduled to coincide with the neighborhood meetings.

Ag Water Quality

The SWCD is the Local Management Agency (LMA) for the Lower Deschutes Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan ("Area Plan"). As part of Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, the Area Plan guides landowners and partners such SWCDs in addressing water quality issues related to agricultural activities. The Area Plan identifies strategies to prevent and control water pollution and soil erosion from agricultural activities within the boundaries of a Management Area to achieve and maintain water quality standards. The plan is developed and regularly updated by a Local Advisory Committee (LAC), primarily comprised of farmers and ranchers from Wasco and Sherman Counties. Their next meeting and biennial review of the plan is scheduled for December 5th from 10:00 am to Noon at the USDA Service Center in The Dalles.

The SWCD receives funding from ODA to help implement the Ag Water Quality Program and local Area Plan. This biennium, the SWCD has a Focus Area in the Chenoweth Creek Watershed. This consists of targeted outreach to landowners who may be impacting Ag Water Quality. We are also helping ODA implement the third Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) in Wasco County. SIA's are a relatively new approach in which ODA identifies potential Ag Water Quality impacts and conducts targeted outreach to landowners. The SWCD is available as a non-regulatory resource to landowners and can provide technical assistance and funding to improve management and reduce negative impacts to streams.

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Service Center News

FSA - TIME IS RUNNING OUT on both disaster assistance and price support programs offered through FSA! The following dates serve as a reminder of these programs and their applicable deadlines. Please don't delay, call for an appointment today!

- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** Deadline is November 30, 2018 (for burned fences). Enrollment includes signing an FSA-848. If you haven't already done this, you haven't signed up.

- **Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** participants, including socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer participants must contact FSA to enroll in continued coverage for 2019 by November 20th, for cherries and November 30, 2018 for hay and grazing crops.

- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)** may offer assistance for grazing losses and additional feed costs due to fire in 2018. Application deadline is extended to December 3, 2018.

- **Market Facilitation Program (MFP)** offers price support for wheat and cherry producers. Signup deadline is January 15, 2019. Landlords with share leases must apply separately from operators. There is no requirement to suffer a loss in order to qualify for this payment.

- **Livestock Forage Program (LFP)** compensates livestock owners for grazing losses due to drought. Signup deadline is January 30, 2019. All of Wasco County non-irrigated rangeland is eligible for these payments.

If you are applying for 2018 programs, please contact our office to ensure that you have a complete and accurate acreage report for your farm(s) on file. A certified acreage report serves as the foundation for FSA program participation. Late-filed 2018 acreage reports will only be accepted within one year of the crop's acreage reporting deadline and are subject to a late-file fee. Grazing, forage and fall-planted small grain acreage reporting deadline is December 15. Perennial fruit crops must

be reported by January 15.

SWCD - Staff continues to work on declining groundwater issue in the Mosier Watershed. We have spent approximately half of the Mosier Million funding provided by OWRD. The purpose of the project is to decommission and replace commingling wells in the Mosier area. To date, we have completed 5 well replacements and have started work on two others.

In addition, the SWCD is assisting the two largest irrigators in the area with constructing two deep wells to significantly reduce pumping pressure on the affected aquifers. Construction of the first well was completed in the spring of 2018; however, we experienced extraordinary and unique challenges that we were unable to anticipate at the beginning of the project. We encountered an extremely high-pressure aquifer that took several months to bring under control. The high-pressure aquifer is now our new production aquifer. We worked closely with OWRD staff to ensure proper construction of the well. The challenges encountered with the first well led to a significant increase in project cost and we are actively seeking additional funding for the second. The lessons learned in the first well will inform the design and construction of the second well.

NRCS - Dan Esposito took over as District Conservationist on October 1st and is busy with staff trying to juggle EQIP fire restoration payments, appointments, and applications. Staff is also gearing up for December's CSP renewals.

All CSP appointments have been scheduled for December and staff encourages participants to keep track of when their appointments are and contact the office at 541-298-8559 ext 3, if you need to reschedule. NRCS is short-handed and rescheduling might be tricky, so please have patience and staff will do everything it can to accommodate changes.

Range Drill

The SWCD has a range drill available for rent, which may be of interest to producers for post-fire restoration. Contact Josh at 541-296-6178 ext 116 for information on renting the range drill.

Wasco County SWCD Post-Fire Update

The 2018 wildfire season in Wasco County was one of the most extreme in living memory. Four large fires and numerous small fires burned approximately 203,229 acres in Wasco County. Several other smaller fires also impacted the area. Wasco County SWCD has worked tirelessly with partner agencies to bring funding and technical assistance to landowners affected by the fire. Contact the SWCD at 541-296-6178 ext 3 to speak with a planner to learn more about resources available to address soil erosion on crop and rangeland, loss of riparian and upland vegetation, damaged fences, weed control, and forest restoration.

Riparian Conservation Buffers

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is USDA program that pays farmers to rent their land along streams for restoration and conservation purposes. In this program, riparian buffers are established, maintained, and removed from agricultural production for 10-15 years. This voluntary program can help landowners comply with the Area Plan discussed above, in addition to providing watershed benefits and financial incentives. Contact the SWCD at 541-296-6178 ext 3 to speak with a planner about CREP and ways to improve your management operations.

2019 Conservation Tree & Shrub Sale

The SWCD is once again conducting our annual tree and shrub sale. Many of the species this year have been selected for fire tolerance. The order form can be found on our website at <https://wascoswcd.org/>. Orders are due by January 24, 2019. If you have any questions or would like more information, give us a call at 541-296-6178 ext 3, or email me at: tammy.tripp@oacd.org.

This year we are trying something different by offering plant bundles at discount along with individual plant pricing. This might come in handy for those who may be doing fire restoration along streambanks or wooded areas. As always, if you have a special plant need, give us a call and we'll see if we can find it.

The Garden Plot

by Tammy Tripp



Saying Goodbye - The Nelson House

I want to pay tribute to this beautiful old farmstead that recently burned up during the Substation Fire. Known as the Nelson House, it's been called the most photographed house in Central Oregon. It has survived the worst nature had to offer since it was built sometime in the early 1900s, but couldn't withstand the fast moving flames from one of this summer's fires. This beautiful icon will be sorely missed.



Wildflower Talk

by Kristin Currin, Humbleroots Nursery

Leafybract Aster

Symphotrichum foliaceum

Species of Symphyotrichum are some of the many plants native to North America which used to be classified in the Aster genus. Modern taxonomic classifications now limit the Aster genus to only one species native to N. America, reclassifying all other N. American asters into various genera, Symphyotrichum being the largest. Asters typically bloom late summer to fall and are important to native pollinators.



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