

Wasco County Watershed Councils Coordinating Board

Meeting Minutes

Conference Room, USDA Service Center, The Dalles

Wednesday July 6th, 2016

11:30am – 12:30pm

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*

Bill Hammel, *15mile Co-Chair*

Pat Davis, *WR Chair/CB Chair*

Shilah Olson, *SWCD Manager*

Bryce Molesworth, *Mosier Co-Chair*

Stan Shephard, *SWCD Board*

Bob Krein, *BO/BH Chair*

Ken Bailey, *The Dalles Co-Chair*

Welcome, Agenda Review, Minute Approval

Pat called the meeting to order and said officer elections will be held this meeting and were added to the agenda.

Pat asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting.

Bryce moved to approve the minutes as distributed, Bill seconded and the motion passed.

OWEB Capacity Grant Work Plan Progress Report

Abbie provided the board with a quick overview of what the OWEB progress report entails: updating the current work plan with details on percent complete, goals and objectives as well as deliverables. Pat explained the progress report is to document how much we have done and accomplished. Ken added that it's also to be able to approve what we've done and show how far we've come. We are doing a lot of good work here. Ken also said we are getting a lot of grants for a lot of various things. Pat added that showing our progress is gaining us a lot of support and getting people excited to send funding our way.

Pat brought it to the board's attention that Stan Shephard, who is a member of the District Board, will be representing the District at the Coordinating Board as a non-voting member. Stan brought up his concern about long-term funding, and more specifically funding for piping projects. He asked how we can ensure projects will be completed. On long-term projects, board members move on and staff are continuously changing. How do we know that we can secure funding for the entire project and make sure it will be completed? Pat said that he brought up a really good point. Pat explained Central Oregon has received money from congress to keep piping irrigation ditches under a similar funding strategy to the Mosier Million. Bob added that in the past, funding has been available for individual projects, but in the last couple years it has turned into bigger, joint projects, which is an idea that is headed in the right direction. Bryce said that in regard to the Mosier Million we have to spend the money before we can ask for more.

Shilah stated that OWEB is going in the direction of secured funding for the entire life of a project, but at this time we still have to keep coming back and asking for additional funds.

Self-Evaluations

Abbie shared with the board the new template OWEB has suggested for council self-evaluations. The new template has four capacity elements that the board will be rating. 1) Leadership: the capacity of organizational leaders to inspire, prioritize, make decisions, provide direction, and innovate. 2) Adaptive: the capacity of a nonprofit organization to monitor, assess, and respond to internal and external changes. 3) Management: the capacity of a nonprofit organization to ensure the effective and efficient use of organizational resources. 4) Operational: the capacity of a nonprofit organization to implement key organizational and programmatic functions.

The board briefly discussed the different elements and format of the evaluations. The board decided to have Pat sit down with Abbie and Shilah and walk through the evaluation tool and bring their ratings to the next Coordinating Board meeting in October. The results will produce graphs that the board will review and discuss any difference in answers.

Shilah asked the board for input on how the SWCD could incorporate feedback from the Coordinating Board into the Staff/Coordinator evaluations, and any comments that need to be brought to the manager. The board agreed the District Manager should retain full oversight of staff and evaluations. If there is trouble with staffing the Coordinating Board will take it to the District Board or the manager. The board discussed possibly having a conversation once a year, before finalizing evaluations, to visit with both council chairs and gather input. If members have a problem they will bring it to the manager.

Discussion of New Coordinating Board Schedule

Abbie met with Bob and Pat after the last meeting to discuss the possibility of changing the Coordinating Board schedule from meeting quarterly to twice a year. After positive feedback it was decided to bring it to this meeting for discussion. The new schedule would consist of two meetings a year, one in the fall and one in the spring, before the each grant cycle. The new schedule would still allow the Coordinating Board to be involved in the watershed council and SWCD grant application process.

Ken moved to initiate changes to the by-laws and agreement with OWEB from quarterly to two meetings a year, Bryce seconded and the motion passed.

Officer Elections

At the beginning of the meeting the officers were: Pat Davis, chair; Bob Krein, vice chair; and Bryce Molesworth, secretary/treasurer.

Bryce moved to nominate/elect the same officers in their current positions, Bill seconded and the motion passed.

Updates/Announcements

The next meeting is now scheduled for September 7th.

Shilah said John Runyon who was contracted to produce the Action Plan called and would like to see if the Coordinating Board would like to invite him back to go over the Action Plan and what has been accomplished over the last year. The board agreed it may be good to have him come back, and to keep in contact with him to help update our work. Shilah added that he is a private consultant but has a lot of good contacts at OWEB. We can find if there is a cost and then we will see if he can come to the September meeting.

The board also discussed inviting Meta Loftsgaarden and John Byers to a meeting. Shilah and Abbie will figure out the details for a future meeting and their availability.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30PM.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest