



Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District
Special Board Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

Directors: Bill Hammel Ken Bailey Phil Kaser

Directors via Teleconference: Larry Powell Stan Shephard

Directors Absent: Shawn Sorensen Bob Krein

Staff: Josh Thompson Abbie Forrest Jennifer Sampson

Staff via Teleconference: Ryan Bessette

1:00 PM Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. An executive session was added per ORS 192.660(2)(h) to discuss potential litigation. *Ken moved to add an executive session to the agenda; Phil seconded. Motion carried.*

Action Items

a. Cost Share Requests – Abbie presented one cost share request:

Kaser – This application is for upgrading irrigation to wheel lines. The application packet was sent in the board meeting packet that went out last week. Phil recused himself from the voting as it is a conflict of interest. Abbie noted an error in the map with the application. She had marked two wheel lines, but the application is only for one wheel line in Phil’s field on Lower 15Mile. He received a quote for \$14,780.13 and was requesting \$7,390.06. Abbie rounded up the request amount to \$7,400 and noted he will be reimbursed on actual cost. *Ken moved to approve Phil Kaser’s cost share application; Larry seconded. Phil abstained. Motion carried.*

b. MOA with NACD for Farm Bill TA Funding – Josh reported the SWCD has been awarded a grant from NACD for technical assistance for the 2024-25 fiscal year. This is the fourth time the District has received this grant, but there are some new conditions in the agreement the board needs to be aware of. The agreement itself has new conditions involving equity, and a demographic survey that will need to be completed by board and staff every six months. The agreement could not be signed until the board gave it careful consideration. The award amount is for \$82,500. Ken commented that this is getting more common and will likely soon be standard procedure with any government contract. *Phil moved to approve the MOA with NACD; Ken seconded. Motion carried.*

Bill called Executive Session Per ORS 192.660(2)(h) RE: Potential Litigation at 1:08pm.

Jennifer confirmed the door was closed and the Zoom meeting was locked to anyone other than board members and invited attendees.

The Regular Board Meeting Reconvened at 1:20pm.

The public was invited to rejoin the meeting.

Updates & Announcements

a. Next Regular Board Meeting – The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024, at 1:00 PM, at the USDA Service Center and via Zoom.

b. Next Watershed Councils Coordinating Board Meeting – April 3, 2024 at 3:00 PM, at the USDA Service Center and via Zoom.

Adjourned: 1:21pm

Jennifer Sampson