

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NORTH SANTIAM WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Board of Directors met on **November 14, 2019** at the Stayton Community Center, Stayton, Oregon. Brad Nanke, President called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. The NSWC mission was read and introductions followed.

Directors Present: Brad Nanke - President (City of Salem), John Caruso - Treasurer (Marion County Representative), Suzette Boudreaux (Little North Fork Santiam Subbasin Representative), Woody Jackson (Breitenbush Subbasin Representative)

A quorum was present. Brent Stevenson -Vice President (Irrigation District Representative) and Jan Irene Miller - Secretary (Lower North Santiam Landowner Representative) were absent.

NSWC Staff Present: Rebecca McCoun, Executive Director

NSWC Volunteer: Amy Borba

Technical Advisors Present: Debbie Paul - Linn SWCD, Darrin Neff – USFS, Lawrence Schwabe -Grand Ronde Tribe

General Members Present: Jay Hennigan - Watershed Resident, Michael Bradley - City of Stayton

Presenter: Susan Barnes, ODFW Regional Conservation Biologist

I. PRESENTATION

6:10 PM: Presentation: Western Pond Turtle Conservation in Oregon

Susan Barnes, Regional Conservation Biologist with ODFW provided the council with a presentation on Western Pond Turtles, one of Oregon’s two native turtle species and is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need throughout its range. Western Pond Turtles are on the decline and need our help to survive into the future. Susan talked about the turtle’s ecology, activity patterns through the seasons, population trends and the threats they face. She shared with us how to create and enhance habitat for turtles, how to report turtle sightings, and what to do if you encounter a turtle on land or crossing a road. Susan brought several live turtles (native and non-native) as well as a turtle shells and eggs for the group to view.



II. CORPORATE ACTIONS

7:40 PM Brad Nanke entertained the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on October 10th, 2019. Suzette Boudreaux moved to approve the minutes. Woody Jackson made a second. No further discussion. All were in favor. The October 10, 2019 minutes were adopted.

Rebecca provided the board an Executive Director Update handout at the beginning of the meeting. Given the time constraint items were not discussed.

7:42 PM General Announcements

Darrin Neff, USFS reported the Regional Aquatics Restoration Team (RATS) team met last week and discussed Phase 1 of the North Fork Breitenbush project. Darrin will provide more information on the efforts in the coming months.

7:45 PM Logo Discussion

Suzette noted the final vote on the logo designs created by the contractor was 3 to 3. The NSWC has already spent \$600 on the effort. No one seems to be excited about any of the options. With Jan Irene and Brent absent the council decided to bring the discussion back up again at the January 2020 meeting. For now, Rebecca will go ahead and pay the current contractor's invoice.

8:00 PM Mid Valley River Connections Discussion

Rebecca sent out with the November 2019 meeting materials the draft Mid Valley River Connections MOU and By-Laws. Suzette noted the MOU is very general and was fine with approving the MOU to move the process forward. Suzette made the motion to approve Rebecca signing the Mid Valley River Connections MOU document. John Caruso made a second. No further discussion. Motion passed. With regards to the Mid Valley River Connection By-Laws, Rebecca gave the council more time to review the document and provide feedback. The board can vote on it in January.

8:10 PM Breitenbush Hot Springs/Trail Discussion

Rebecca brought Woody Jackson's efforts around the Breitenbush Hot Springs and user trail issues to the floor. In the spring of 2019, the council had approved Rebecca meeting with Woody, USFS staff and stakeholders to discuss long time standing issues. After a recent fall meeting with USFS District Ranger, staff and with Woody Jackson, Rebecca is now uncertain the NSWC is the right entity to assist with the needed conversations. The USFS noted given the lack of capacity and funding neither were of high priority for them. They noted they are important, but the issues are complex and they have more pressing issues they are needing to address at this time. Discussion followed. The board members present decided to continue the discussion when Brent and Jan Irene were present.

8:25 PM Meeting Adjourned

Signature of Secretary Janet Irene Miller Date: 1/9/20