

OCEAN Quarterly Board Meeting

August 9th, 2012 @ 7:30 a.m.

Teleconference

Attendance

Jeremy Baker-President
Janet Greenup-Treasurer
Jerry Nicolescu- OACD

Shilah Olson-Vice President
Walt Barton

Malysa Page
Josh Uriarte

Meeting Minutes

Janet motioned to approve annual meeting minutes, Josh seconded, motion passed unanimously.

CONNECT

Shilah reported that planning is on track for CONNECT 2013. The next meeting is scheduled for August 23, during which the committee will review quotes from various locations and assign planning tasks. Spirit Mountain and Kah-Nee-Ta are currently the most competitive. The conference is tentatively scheduled for April 24-26, 2013. Janet suggested that the planning team contact Spirit Mountain to see if they have any grants available.

Partnerships and Capacity Building

Jerry Nicolescu reported that Measure 76 changed the way that OWEB provides funding to government agencies. OWEB is going through a strategic planning process to determine how they will allocate available funds. They are encouraging past grantees of outreach and education funding to collaborate where possible. OWEB would like to see OACD, OCEAN, and the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) coordinate capacity building events. One example is the joint conference that OACD and NOWC had last year.

Jerry and Jeremy have been discussing ways that OACD and OCEAN might partner to put on CONNECT 2013. OACD currently has an OWEB grant of \$100,000. They may be able to get additional funds but it is not clear how much. Jerry suggested that OACD could put some of their money towards CONNECT. He recognizes that there have been some past issues with how OACD and OCEAN work together. He wants to reexamine the relationship of the two associations to determine how they might make each other stronger without undermining the independence of either one. OACD has a board meeting on August 10th, after which Jerry plans to work with Courtney Shaff at OWEB on OACD's funding request. He would like to discuss the figure that they might contribute towards CONNECT.

If OACD provides funding for CONNECT, Jerry would like to request funds prior to February 1st, otherwise the legislature may try to take the funds. The state has government funding teams who have set amounts of money and decide which agencies get funded and at what level. For example, they will dedicate monitoring funds to the agencies with the best monitoring programs.

Jerry said the CONNECT agreement would essentially be pass-through funding from OACD to OCEAN with milestones and deliverables. Jeremy said this is not what he understood, as the prior discussion had been about making a joint request from OACD and OCEAN. The board asked to see a formal written proposal so that they could make an informed decision.

OACD Annual Meeting

Jeremy reported that Jan Lee is arranging a tax base discussion at the OACD conference. There is apparently not much OCEAN can do to help at this point. Jerry said the tax base discussion will be a meeting with districts who have a tax base (Clackamas) and others who don't have one or have attempted to gain one and failed (Josephine). ODA is involved in planning the session.

Jerry and Jeremy participated in a conference call on August 2nd to discuss a potential district manager training session. Tom Salzer will lead the effort with assistance from ODA. District managers would like to have regular trainings at the OACD conference as well as CONNECT. Jerry is working to make sure time is available at the OACD conference.

NCDEA Awards

Shilah reported that the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) sponsors an award for National Conservation Outstanding District Professional. Each state association is eligible to submit one entry for regional review. Shilah suggested that OCEAN nominate Linda Rowe, who was selected as the state employee of the year at CONNECT 2012. The board agreed. Shilah will contact Jason Faucera to work out the details.

Organizational Structure

Jeremy suggested that the board might want to consider changing some things about the organizational structure of OCEAN prior to filing for 501(c)3 status. It is currently a fee-based association where members pay \$10 per year but both members and non-members receive equal benefits. An alternative approach would be to make all district employees automatic members. Janet likes the idea of all district employees being automatic members but expressed concern about the burden of keeping track of all the employees.

Membership

Jeremy pointed out that OCEAN follows NRCS's structure of basins. This is good as it ensures state-wide representation on the OCEAN board. It is problematic, however, to get equal participation from all parts of the state. It might be easier to get an active board if there were not basin representative restrictions. Several board members agreed that regional representation is very important, especially if all employees are members. One suggestion is to have larger regions to make the election process a little more flexible. This issue should be addressed prior to OCEAN filing for 501(c)3 status.

501c3 Update

Shilah reported that Lisa is updating the bylaws and articles of incorporation and has a few questions for the OCEAN board. She would like to get those out in the next week or so. The board may need to call a special meeting in September to discuss and vote on the changes.

Committee Reports

None presented.

Basin Reports

None presented.

Updates

APPROVED 10/11/12

Jeremy reported that he, Shilah and Marty Suter had recently participated in the NRCS Field Office of the Future visioning sessions at the state office. These sessions were intended to identify ways to maintain the delivery of quality conservation services while also managing decreasing budgets. Results of the sessions will be incorporated into a report and sent to NRCS Chief Dave White.

Additions/Other

Jeremy reported that Nathan Slaven was no longer employed with Polk SWCD. He asked the board members to be thinking about nominating a replacement for his position on the OCEAN board.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 11th at 7:30 a.m.

Adjourned

8:40 a.m.