

# OCEAN Board Meeting

## December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 7:30 a.m.

### Teleconference

#### Attendance

Jeremy Baker-President  
Janet Greenup-Treasurer  
Teresa Matteson  
Nathan Herr

Shilah Olson-Vice President  
Malyssa Page  
Marty Goold

Lisa Mahon-Secretary  
Josh Uriarte  
Jackie Hastings

Jeremy called the meeting to order at 7:37AM.

#### Meeting Minutes

*Malyssa* moved to accept the October 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. *Teresa* seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Jackie abstained from voting because she was not at the October meeting.

#### Treasurers Report

OCEAN's current balance is \$6,121.91, which includes the income we received from the silent auction of \$589.

#### Connect 2013

Shilah reported that we are on track with planning the sessions. The big focus right now is funding. Right now the committee is working on getting funding for the conference. Columbia SWCD donated their time to print and mail all the sponsor letters for Connect, which went out this week.

The Connect committee is planning to submit a funding request to Spirit Mountain Foundation but there are some issues with OCEAN submitting the request so Jackie updated the group on what is happening now. Spirit Mountain's process is very rigorous and requires a 6 page application. Jackie pointed out that OCEAN is not a 501c3 so they cannot apply. She and Lisa discussed that Wallowa would be the more appropriate applicant and to list OCEAN as a partner. The process will start with a letter of inquiry, then if selected a grant application will need to be completed. To continue moving on there must be an in person meeting about the grant and the final step is the approval by the tribal council. The tribe is already strong supporters of Connect by offering discounts at the hotel, volunteering to do an opening ceremony, and presenting on the field trip. The Connect budget has some more details needed to meet the criteria and show every aspect of cost and donated time that goes into Connect. Jackie wanted to make sure that the OCEAN board was okay with Wallowa applying. Shilah said she supports Wallowa applying since they are running all the funds for Connect again. Jackie will report more specifics to the Connect committee. Lisa and Jackie will work together with the Connect committee to complete the grant.

Jackie also reported that the field trip is set up with partners including ODA, ODFW, NRCS, and Polk SWCD. Everyone attending Connect will be invited to attend.

*The next Connect meeting is December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.* Jeremy will send a notice to the membership about the next connect meeting and will also send out a document to the board members that has the state email list.

### **501c3 Update**

Lisa sent the Articles of Incorporations out to the board this week and asked for any input. This is the first step in becoming a 501c3 organization. Submitting the articles is part of registering the entity with the State of Oregon. After going over the Articles Jeremy suggested sending them to the membership. The board decided that a week should be a sufficient amount of time for the membership to review the articles.

*Teresa* moved that we send the Articles of Incorporation (Attached to Minutes) out to the membership-for review and barring any major changes, Lisa will submit them to the state of Oregon. *Jackie* seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next step in the process is updating the OCEAN bylaws to meet the requirements of a 501c3 organization in Oregon. Once the bylaws are updated Lisa, will send them to the board for an initial review. After the board has given input and approved changes the bylaws will go out to the membership for the final review. The goal is to have the bylaws to the membership early enough to approve at the February 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

### **Basin Representation**

A big issue with the OCEAN Board is that it can be difficult to get 11 board members to participate in scheduled meetings. Jeremy pointed out that a vast majority of meetings are carried out with the minimum number needed to make a quorum. He has been brain storming and talking with other folks about ways to increase board participation. One idea brought up was to have open representation, instead of basin based representation, so that anyone who is willing and able can participate. Malysa brought up a common concern that this idea could allow one area to dominate the representatives.

Jackie agreed that it is important to have the representation spread across the state. An option she presented was to keep the current structure and develop a policy that allows the board to take steps to appoint a new person from anywhere in the state if a sitting representative misses a certain number of meetings. Marty emphasized the importance to the board of keeping a balance of equal representation across the state through the process.

Another option would be to draft a letter of intent for each board member that is voted in to sign. Also hold an initial interview with each member to find out their strengths, weaknesses and interests to identify where they could best serve OCEAN. This will help in knowing what board members to call for committees and various duties.

Some boards are still having difficulty seeing the direct benefit from OCEAN to their staff. Marty suggested that OCEAN may need to put more effort into informing the SWCD boards of OCEAN's purpose so SWCD Board Members are more supportive of employees participating in OCEAN.

### **At-Large Representative**

Jeremy asked that it be noted that he appointed Jackie Hastings to fill the open at-large position. Since TJ Woodley left SWCDs there is another position open. The board discussed potential candidates for Jeremy to contact.

### **Website**

Jason Faucera has completely redesigned the OCEAN website and it has a new very professional look that is great! His work is greatly appreciated and everyone is encouraged to look at it.  
[www.oceanconnect.com](http://www.oceanconnect.com).

### **OACD Conference Updates**

Jan Lee was giving her OACD address to everyone and pointed out OCEAN for all our hard work.

Shilah and Jeremy met with Meta at the conference to try to better understand funding issues for OWEB. Essentially, OCEAN needs to start partnering with other groups or make a really strong case of why we can't partner with other groups.

Shilah and Jeremy also met with the leadership of the Grande Ronde Tribe, who won the large cooperator of the year award. They offered to do an opening ceremony at Connect.

About 6 people showed up to the open discussion that OCEAN had and there was great participation by everyone attending.

### **Area Reps Update**

Marty will be hosting Sage Grouse initiative outreach sessions with Lake and Malheur counties. She was interested in what Baker is doing and would like to see more outreach basin wide. Harney County has been asked by BLM and Oregon Cattlemen's Association to take the lead on this initiative. She pointed out that the Governor's office is starting to recognize the diversity that the SWCD's have to offer and Meta has been a big help in showing the potential of SWCDs at the state level.

### **General Info**

Jeremy was contacted by Ryan Gordon who is the new outreach and education director at the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC). NOWC is having a retreat/training in May the week after we are having ours. Jeremy and Ryan are trying to meet to discuss more about the two organizations and partnership opportunities in the future.

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:04am.

**Next meeting will be Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lisa Mahon