

Approved 3/21/2019

Ocean Minutes February 21, 2019

Present: Jeremy Baker, Jason Faucera, Shilah Olson, Janet Greenup (had to leave the call at noon), Kyle Waggoner, Scott Susi, Cathy McQueeney, Clint Nichols, Herb Winters

Absent: Kari Hollander (medical leave)

1. Call to Order and Announcements

Jeremy called the meeting to order at 10:36 am.

Announcements:

Clint and Cathy are going to Salem to represent OCEAN at the OWEB birthday celebration on 2/22/19. Jeremy shared talking points on the focus of OCEAN and purpose of CONNECT conference with Cathy and Clint.

2. Review of January Meeting Minutes

Item #3 Treasurer's report - correction noted by Jeremy: "Susan" should be Shannon Schmidt

Janet moved to approve January minutes as amended, Kyle seconds. Unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Balance of \$64,719.48, with one outstanding check to Dept. of Justice. We just received an Eventbrite deposit for \$1750.62 on 2/19/19.

Profit and loss balance sheets and budget vs. actual reports reviewed. Close to budget, no glaring discrepancies per Janet.

Kyle moves to accept the financial report as submitted , seconded by Jason. Unanimously approved.

4. Rescheduling Strategic Planning Dates

Recent Doodle poll results show that there are big chunks of time when not all members are available. Jeremy recommends postponing strategic planning until after CONNECT. No dissent. Jeremy will find out if Karen will be available in May. Reschedule.

Should we solicit feedback from state districts and councils – maybe a survey sent out in the middle of March or a discussion at the annual board meeting – to help inform our strategic planning session? How would this be different from our feedback form at CONNECT? Jeremy says survey would focus on OCEAN in general, not just the CONNECT event. Potential ideas:

- Hold a special session at CONNECT outside of the annual meeting?

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- “Beachside chats” – informal information sessions staffed by board members? – Fireside chats of the past worked well when the conference wasn’t so packed.
- Something more formal so that people take it seriously – goal is to get maximum number of responses. An email or survey right in front of participants most likely to get results?
- Fill out survey incentive – drink ticket?

5. CONNECT Conference Updates w/Lisa Mahon

As of today, 70 speaker forms received, 40 approved – making great progress. Still a few empty sessions due to cancellations, furlough mishaps. Lisa has a huge list of technical session ideas so it won’t be a problem to fill slots. 162 registered as of today. She’s expecting 220 by next week.

Do we want to have a pre-event like last year’s Riparian Event? Nothing was planned for Monday this year. Kristen Tripe wants to do a 6-hour biochar session which would present findings and provide an educational component.

- Are we interested in extending the contract to include Monday? There would be a \$250 hotel cost for OCEAN to provide this session for 1-2 rooms (1/2 day charge, even if was a full day because it’s only using small part of center).
- Better to fit this in on Tuesday morning? This would compete with field trips, but wouldn’t cost us any more and people will already be arriving Monday night, no there would be no need for them to change already secured reservations.
- Hold session as a regional training? Could hold twice -have in both the East and the West.

Jason suggests we defer this decision to Jeremy and Lisa as permitted by agreement already in place.

Three field trips: Wetland prairie, forestry w/ homeowners association, High Desert Museum (\$11/person). Would board front cost per person? Last year, aquarium donated admittance.

“Simplify” CONNECT Session and Honorarium Contract: three corrections

50% deposit ahead to be *refunded within 45 days after the conference*

Meals provided *while speaker is in attendance*

Use CONNECT email address.

Kyle moves to approve amended speaker honorarium for “Simplify” and Janet seconds. Unanimously approved.

Scholarships

\$8,695 requested

\$7,475 awarded – monies were not awarded to a private company – Palmer Farm – nor were transportation costs for Tryon Creek Watershed Council.

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\$250 was awarded to Yamhill SWCD to cover a 7th participant.

Are we charging watershed council network for scholarships? No, they have no funds. Monies coming out of CONNECT funds. Councils not recognized by OWEB are included.

Shilah: Special case – Clatsop SWCD – Financial budget concerns for Misty who declined to apply before scholarship deadline because the scholarship award was insufficient for their budget, but subsequently found out she could use ODA funds to supplement. She was encouraged to make a late submission which the committee recommends that we approve as this exemplifies the type of Districts the scholarships were designed to target.

Jason moves to accept Clatsop scholarship submission for \$750. Clint seconds. Unanimously approved.

Jason moves to approve the scholarship awards as submitted. Kyle seconds. Unanimously approved.

Sponsorships

Kari was going to follow up with past sponsors. Was this done or should it be reassigned to someone else? Jason is willing to help.

10th Anniversary? Was celebrated in 2018

6. Oregon Conservation Partnership Budget for 2019-2021 Biennium

Jeremy noted that any dollars OCEAN were to request from the Partnership would have to be of benefit to the Partnership – including CONNECT conference. Jeremy asked Lisa to figure out the number of education hours we've provided over the past 10 years and how many scholarship dollars we've provided to Districts AND Councils in order to show how CONNECT benefits the Partnership. This information would be needed in the next month.

Based on his own experience, Jason believes the Partnership considers CONNECT to be what OCEAN brings to the Partnership. Jeremy agrees, but OCEAN has capacity issues and believes other funding from the Partnership could enhance OCEAN's ability to produce CONNECT as well as other programs. While continued support for CONNECT is likely, if we ask for money for an Executive Director we would have to demonstrate how that helps the Partnership. Jeremy: How does COLT ED or OWEB ED, or OACD ED help the Partnership? Especially when CONNECT offers the largest training value to the collective? Jeremy and Jason to talk offline about this. Jeremy thinking he/OCEAN could benefit from a face to face meeting with Meta Loftsgaarden. 1st draft of budget expected to be done by March 1st. The more we can go in with specific asks, the more likely they may be considered. Just asking for funding for an ED might not be enough.

Thoughts or comments? Please feel free to share with Jeremy.

7. OCEAN Website Bids

Tabled until next month's meeting due to time constraints.

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8. Partnership Reports/Updates

OACD has appointed Jan Lee as temporary Executive Director now that John has left. Several board members observed that the OACD Board is bogged down and has had the same members for the past 15 years.

Clint - Regional Riparian Restoration Workshop in Rogue Valley – 30 registrants so far for the March 7-8 event. Registrants represent a very diverse group – great training opportunity.

9. Adjourn

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy McQueeney

Clackamas SWCD, OCEAN representative