

Approved 8/18/2022

Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Annual Meeting Minutes June 16, 2022



Oregon Conservation Education
& Assistance Network

PRESENT: Cynthia Warnock (Wallowa SWCD), Clint Nichols (Jackson SWCD), Kelly Dawes (Tualatin SWCD), Cathy McQueeney (Clackamas SWCD), Jeremy Baker (EMSWCD), Alexandria Scott (OCEAN Contractor), Herb Winters (Gillam SWCD), Victoria Fischella (Upper Willamette SWCD), Judy Marsh (Tualatin SWCD), Rhonda Black (Umpqua SWCD), Morgan Neil (Polk SWCD), Clair Klock (Clackamas SWCD), Deric Carson (Union SWCD), Karelia Ver Eecke (Jackson SWCD & Envirothon) & Rikki Heath (Oregon Forest Resources Institute)

1) CALL TO ORDER & REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA - OCEAN's President called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Cynthia Warnock then went over the ground rules and conducted roll call.

2) BOARD MEETING MINUTES - The board meeting minutes for May were up for review/approval at this meeting. *Kelly Dawes moved to accept the May board meeting minutes as presented, Victoria Fischella seconded. All approved unanimously.*

3) TREASURER REPORT - Kelly Dawes reviewed the bank account as of May 31st, 2022, income & expenses and the budget approved by the board in March 2022. As of May 31st, 2022 OCEAN has \$1,251.93 in the Umpqua bank account, \$39,706.91 in the Bank of Eastern Oregon account. The claim of \$10,000 that was submitted to NRCS for CONNECT+ came last Friday and will be reflected on next month's financials. There were no questions or comments on the 2022 OCEAN budget when it was presented. *Kelly Dawes moved to approve the financials as presented, Cathy McQueeney seconded. All approved unanimously.*

4) ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2021 - Cynthia Warnock reviewed the 2021 accomplishments with attendees, that includes launching a new OCEAN website, bringing on an Administrative Support Contractor and Programs Contractor to assist OCEAN in accomplishing its organizational goals, and successfully updating the organizations logo which was a goal set at the strategic planning meeting in October of 2021. The new website is now live (<https://oceanconnect.org>). It can be viewed in multiple languages, has a new [event page](#) containing district calendar links, a new [training & certification page](#), and districts can submit stories to be shared on the new [news & stories page](#) of the website. Some goals that are still in progress include the poster contest, increasing partner relations and an OCEAN quarterly newsletter to update the partners of our accomplishments and upcoming webinars and trainings.

5) ELECTIONS OF AREA REPRESENTATIVES - OCEAN Election Policy states that area representatives are to be nominated by the general membership in attendance at the Annual Meeting. The elected representatives will then elect the Executive Committee (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, President).

The following is a list of Area Representative Positions up for election:

1. **Columbia Plateau Representative** – Currently represented by Herb Winters (Gillam County SWCD)
2. **Portland/Salem Metro** – Currently represented by Jeremy Baker (East Multnomah SWCD)
3. **Southern Oregon** – Currently represented by Clint Nichols (Jackson SWCD)
4. **Western At-Large Representative A** – Currently represented by Cathy McQueeney (Clackamas SWCD)
5. **Western At-Large Representative C** – Currently represented by Kelly Dawes (Tualitan SWCD)

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Clair Klock nominated Herb Winters (Gillam County SWCD), Jeremy Baker (East Multnomah SWCD), Cathy McQueeney (Clackamas SWCD) and Kelly Dawes (Tualitan SWCD) to serve another term on the OCEAN Board the nomination was seconded by Clint Nichols. Election was unanimous.

*** The board has tabled the election for OCEAN's Vice President role for a couple months to give newer board members time to consider the role

6. Currently vacant

- a. Eastern At-Large Rep. A – *Deric Carson (Union SWCD) was nominated by Cynthia Warnock the nomination was seconded by Jeremy Baker. Election was unanimous.*
- b. Eastern At-Large Rep. B
- c. Eastern At-Large Rep. C
- d. Western At large Rep. B

6) MEMBERSHIP - Cynthia Warnock posed the question to the group of how OCEAN can better communicate the importance of OCEAN membership to districts and what membership gets them. There was some discussion amongst the group about the benefits of the networking and cutting-edge information sharing that takes place through OCEAN. OCEAN would love to continue to hear from more some of the districts who were not able to attend as well.

7) CONNECT+ 2022 - For CONNECT+ 2022 there will be an in-person and virtual option for people to attend the conference. The call for abstracts is still open until the need of this month and registration will launch in July. There have been 51 submissions and the planning committee would like to have 65 by the end of the month.

8) ENVIROTHON - Karelia Ver Eecke and Rikki Heath presented the strengths of the Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon, Oregon Envirothon, and the importance of building greater support from and within Oregon's Conservation Districts. The pdf version of the full presentation can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Jeremy Baker said he would follow up with Rikki Heath about potentially presenting at CONNECT so that Envirothon can get more exposure with the districts.

9) OPEN FLOOR - The group was given the opportunity to bring up any additional items. Jeremy Baker asked Alexandria Scott if she could send the Envirothon presentation to the group after the meeting.

10) ADJOURN - *Clair Klock made a motion adjourn the meeting, Jeremy Baker seconded. All approved unanimously.*

Meeting Notes Submitted By: Alexandria Scott, OCEAN Administrative Support Contractor