

**Approved on 9/21/23**

# **Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Annual Meeting Minutes July 20, 2023**



Oregon Conservation Education  
& Assistance Network

**PRESENT:** Cynthia Warnock (Wallowa SWCD), Cathy McQueeney (Clackamas SWCD), Kelly Dawes (Tualatin SWCD), Jeremy Baker (EMSWCD), Herb Winters (Gillam SWCD), Victoria Fischella (Upper Willamette SWCD), Beth Thiel (Polk SWCD), Andy Bleckinger (Yamhill SWCD), Erik Rook (Monument SWCD), Jill Smedstad (Jackson SCWCD), Malysa Legg (Columbia SWCD), Kevin Porter (Polk SWCD)

**1) CALL TO ORDER & REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA** - OCEAN's President, Cynthia Warnock, called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

**2) BOARD MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL** - The board meeting minutes for the June 2023 board meeting were up for review/approval at this meeting. *Cathy McQueeney moved to accept the June 2023 meeting minutes as presented, Kelly Dawes seconded. All approved unanimously.*

**3) TREASURER REPORT** - Kelly Dawes gave an overview of the 2022 financials as of December 31<sup>st</sup> OCEAN had \$26,129.95. She also gave an update on OCEAN's 2023 financials as of June 30. OCEAN currently has \$65,613.01 in the bank. There were no questions from the group on either financial report given. *Jeremy Baker moved to accept the financials as presented by Kelly Dawes, Herb Winters seconded. All approved unanimously.*

**4) LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS** - Cynthia Warnock walked through the length of service awards prepared by Jason Faucera and shown on the Zoom screen.

## 5 Years

Clarissa Berndt - Upper Willamette SWCD  
Kelly Dawes - Tualatin SWCD  
Tyler Pedersen - Tualatin SWCD  
Todd Peplin - Deschutes SWCD  
Cory Roe - Baker Valley SWCD  
Nicole Ruggiero - Tualatin SWCD  
Jenna Sanford - Jackson SWCD  
Tatiana Taylor - Tualatin SWCD

## 10 Years

Holly Crosson - Benton SWCD  
Paul DeMaggio - Jackson SWCD  
Kris Schaedel - Hood River SWCD  
Rowan Steele - East Multnomah SWCD  
Cindy Thieman - Hood River SWCD  
Kelly Timchak - Curry County SWCD  
Jon Wagner - East Multnomah SWCD  
Alex Woolery - East Multnomah SWCD

## 15 Years

Michael Ahr - Benton SWCD  
Chris Aldassy - East Multnomah SWCD  
Debra Bunch - Wheeler SWCD

***Approved on 9/21/23***

# **Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Annual Meeting Minutes July 20, 2023**



Oregon Conservation Education  
& Assistance Network

Gary Faw - Malheur County SWCD  
Barbara Grant - Curry County SWCD  
Roger Lathrop - Gilliam County SWCD  
Judy Marsh - Tualatin SWCD  
Debra Paul - Linn SWCD  
Kevin Payne - Morrow SWCD  
Jenne Reische - Clackamas SWCD

## 20 Years

Jeremy Baker - East Multnomah SWCD  
Scott Eden - Clackamas SWCD  
Jason Faucera - Clackamas SWCD  
Kathy Shearin - East Multnomah SWCD

## 25 Years

Dave Downing - Upper Willamette SWCD  
Adam Haarberg - Jefferson County SWCD  
Clair Klock - Clackamas SWCD

**5) ACCOMPLISHMENTS** - CONNECT 2022 on September 6-8<sup>th</sup> hybrid conference was a big success. There were 8 tracks, 99 presenters and 64 breakout sessions. There 235 people registered for in-person and 76 people registered virtually. The board was really impressed with the ability to livestream the conference.

OCEAN sent out a survey earlier this year to the districts asking about whether or not we should have a conference in 2023 and how they would like to participate if we did. We heard that people prefer to meet in-person over just virtual and that it was better to hold off until spring 2024 with budget cycles. OCEAN board members will be voting on awarding the contract for the 2024 connect conference planner in a later agenda item.

OCEAN hired two contractor's Alexandria Scott and Jason Faucera. Alexandria Scott helps Jason Faucera is the OCEAN Program's Contractor he handles our website and directory maintenance as well as working with NRCS to strategize and implement our NRCS grant deliverables. Alexandria Scott is OCEAN's Administrative Support Contractor. She helps keep organizational matters up to date, takes board meeting minutes, helps develop NRCS success stories and OCEAN newsletters.

OCEAN will continue to focus on making progress on the goals from its 2021 strategic planning meeting as it did not have a meeting in 2022. Goals can be viewed in the strategic planning meeting minutes from 2021 on this page of the website <https://oceanconnect.org/about/budget-minutes/>.

**6) ELECTIONS OF AREA REPRESENTATIVES** - The following Area Representative Positions were up for re-election:

1. Eastern Oregon – Currently represented by Cynthia Warnock (Wallowa County SWCD)
2. Northwest Oregon – Victoria Fischella (Upper Willamette SWCD)

***Approved on 9/21/23***

# **Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Annual Meeting Minutes July 20, 2023**



Oregon Conservation Education  
& Assistance Network

***Jeremy Baker made a motion to re-elect Victoria Fischella as the Northwest Oregon representative and Cynthia Warnock as the Eastern Oregon representative for another term, Kelly Dawes seconded. All approved unanimously.***

Vacant positions

- a. Eastern At-Large Rep. A
- b. Eastern At-Large Rep. B
- c. Eastern At-Large Rep. C
- d. Western At large Rep. B
- e. Southern Oregon Rep

***Jeremy Baker made a motion to nominate Erik Rook as the Eastern Oregon at Large A Representative and Jill Smedstad as the Southern Oregon Representative, Victoria Fischella seconded. All approved unanimously.***

**6) CONNECT 2024** - Victoria Fischella and Cynthia Warnock conducted reference checks on the consultants who submitted proposals in response to the CONNECT 2024 conference planner RFP. The results of that check were shared by Cynthia Warnock with the rest of the board in advance of the board meeting. After some discussion, the board felt prepared to take a vote to award the contract. ***Victoria Fischella made a motion to award D Plump Consulting the CONNECT 2024 Conference Planner contract, Cathy McQueeney seconded. All approved unanimously.***

**7) CONTRACTOR UPDATES** - Jason Faucera was not able to attend this meeting. Alexandria Scott has been mainly focusing on completing administrative tasks as assigned by OCEAN's president and getting the spring newsletter completed. She thanked District employees for submitting content for the newsletter and encouraged increased participation in the future. There will be a summer newsletter going out in late August, Alexandria Scott will reach out to districts to see if they have anything exciting to share after the busy summer season.

**8) ADDITIONAL ITEMS** - There were no additional items added to the agenda.

**9) ADJOURN** – ***Cathy McQueeney made a motion to adjourn at 2:10 p.m., Kelly Dawes seconded. All approved unanimously.***

**Meeting Minutes Submitted By:** Alexandria Scott, OCEAN Administrative Support Contractor