

Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network

Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024



Oregon Conservation Education
& Assistance Network

PRESENT: Cynthia Warnock (Wallowa SWCD), Cathy McQueeney (Clackamas SWCD), Kelly Dawes (Tualatin SWCD), Jason Faucera (Clackamas SWCD), Jill Smedstad (Jackson SCWCD), Herb Winters (Gilliam SWCD). Erik Rook (Monument SWCD)

1) CALL TO ORDER & REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA - OCEAN's President, Cynthia Warnock, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. No additions were made to the agenda.

2) BOARD MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL - No minutes for approval this meeting.

3) TREASURER REPORT - Kelly Dawes gave an overview of the financials, for the entire year (as of Dec 31, 2023) OCEAN has \$45,177.68 in the bank account. \$54,000 will be coming in from NRCS this month. The OCEAN budget for the year has not been put together yet. *Cathy McQueeney moved to approve the financials as presented, Herb Winters seconded. All approved unanimously*

4) CONNECT+ 2024 - Cynthia Warnock gave update to the rest of the board on how conference planning is going. In 2-weeks there will be another planning meeting. The solicitation for abstracts has been sent out and 6 have been submitted thus far. If you know of someone who would be a good presenter, please don't hesitate on inviting them to submit an abstract. The planning committee has decided on 2 guest speakers, one will be a producer the other one will be an expert on beavers. There will be 6 tracks for this conference and there is not a specific theme for this year. Erik Rook pointed out that the CONNECT conference "Call for Abstracts" page formatting looks wonky so Cynthia Warnock will follow up with Daphne Plump to get that fixed.

Discussed during treasurer report agenda item: 83 people have registered for CONNECT+ that has generated \$23,375 worth of revenue so far. 28 people have paid dues through Eventbrite and 23 were from Kelly's district. There is no budget put together yet for CONNECT+. Cynthia Warnock will reach out to Daphne Plump before the CONNECT+ planning meeting in 2-weeks.

5) CONTRACTOR UPDATES - Jason Faucera has been busy trying to coordinate meetings with NRCS for the communications contractor to get out stories and find new customer for NRCS and that person would also leverage OCEAN stories as well. There is \$415,000 remaining in the grant and the funds need to be used by September of 2024 and they can give a 1-year extension on that. Once he gets the go ahead on the contract from NRCS, it will be full speed ahead for a recruitment for the communications contractor. A board meeting will be needed to get a contract signed so a special meeting of the board may need to be scheduled. Jason Faucera is working on a scope of work to add ways for people to connect and add skills to the directory before the April CONNECT+ conference. Nothing has been started yet from a work standpoint it has been more coordination efforts. He is hoping to get an estimate for that work next week from the web developer. Hoopla reached out to see if we would like to renew website maintenance for another year. Jason Faucera volunteered to email them about what we would like to do moving forward and that we would like to just maintain the site for now.

6) ADJOURN- *The meeting ended at 1:45 p.m. There was no motion to end the meeting.*

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