

Approved 3/21/2024

Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Board Meeting Minutes February 15, 2024



Oregon Conservation Education
& Assistance Network

PRESENT: Cynthia Warnock (Wallowa SWCD), Cathy McQueeney (Clackamas SWCD), Kelly Dawes (Tualatin SWCD), Jason Faucera (Clackamas SWCD), Herb Winters (Gilliam SWCD), Erik Rook (Monument SWCD), Jeremy Baker (Multnomah SWCD)

1) CALL TO ORDER & REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA - OCEAN's President, Cynthia Warnock, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. No additions were made to the agenda.

2) BOARD MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL - *Cathy McQueeney moved to approve the January 2024 board meeting minutes as presented, Kelly Dawes seconded. Jeremy Baker abstained. All approved unanimously. Herb Winters moved to approve the October 2023 meeting minutes as presented, Kelly Dawes seconded. All approved unanimously*

3) TREASURER REPORT - There wasn't a report to go over this month. Kelly Dawes received the CONNECT+ 2024 budget from Daphne Plump and she has some follow up questions before she can include the numbers for CONNECT into the OCEAN 2024 budget. First off, could the amount for each track change from \$1,500 to \$2,000? The second question is about the catering contract (\$45,000), what is this number based on if there are 312 people registered for the conference so far? For program printing costs (\$4,000), could this be lowered by utilizing an app? These questions will help Kelly Dawes hone in on the details of the CONNECT budget to produce an OCEAN budget that is balanced. At next month's board meeting, the board will vote on the OCEAN 2024 budget.

4) CONNECT+ 2024 - Herb Winters asked the board about whether or not there was the ability/interest in helping out a district employee in need with funds raised through the auction or perhaps a donation jar. The board was supportive of the idea but there was some concern around equity, anonymity, security for a donation jar and if this would be something offered each year. Cynthia Warnock and Herb Winters will talk to the conference planner (Daphne Plump) to see if she has additional thoughts on this matter.

Daphne Plump joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m. to give a brief update on CONNECT conference planning. Abstracts are starting to come in, 16 have come in so far and the deadline is February 23rd. Sponsorships are starting to come in OCEAN has received 1 so far. Both keynote speakers have agreed to speak. Cynthia Warnock, Kelly Dawes, and Cathy McQueeney will set a meeting separately to discuss the catering number with Daphne Plump. Daphne Plump said the amount for each track could be bumped up to \$2,000 if the board wanted to go that direction. She also explained that using an app for the conference would not cut the cost down for printing as there are additional costs to manage the app and functions that can be added. The board approved going ahead with getting an app for the conference for networking and accessibility benefits. There was not a quorum at the time.

5) CONTRACTOR UPDATES - Jason Faucera met with NRCS to go over adjustments to the contract agreement language for the communications contractor position. Jason Faucera would like to bring an RFP to the next board meeting to make progress on getting someone hired. He has also been meeting with NRCS to continue conversations on conservation planning certifications. NRCS is putting together a list of trainings and other needs which the OCEAN could assist with compiling.

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Alexandria continues to provide administrative support to OCEAN. The board agreed to hold a virtual vote for OCEAN to cover her expenses to attend the CONNECT+ 2024 conference since the quorum was lost at 2:30 p.m.

6) **ADJOURN-** The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

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