1) CALL TO ORDER & LATE AGENDA ITEMS: The meeting was called to order at 7:32 am. There were no late agenda items.

2) BOARD MINUTES: ACTION The board reviewed the minutes from the August 9, 2017 board meeting. Sam Sweeney moved and Dave Cruickshank seconded to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

3) TREASURER’S REPORT: The board reviewed the August Treasurer’s Report. Dave Cruickshank moved and Sam Sweeney seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4) REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE: Miscellaneous newsletters, announcements and pertinent newspaper articles were circulated.
5) OLD BUSINESS:
   a. Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Teleconference: Barbara reported the participants discussed the progression of the Executive Director Search, updated information regarding the Sage Grouse RCPP, and the publication of the first OACD Newsletter.
   b. District Highway Signs (Polk Collaboration) Follow-Up: Josh updated the board on the district sign progress and the board reaffirmed approval of spending up to $700 on this project. The cost includes placing a new sign on Wallace Road. It was recommended we expand our signage in the future, collaborating with other bordering districts.
   c. Straw Mulching Program Update: Marie shared the results of testing the straw mulcher at Sam’s farm. They were pleased with the results and found the mulcher was able to blow straw 50 feet. They will conduct further trials on four hazelnut farms. Larry composed a contract that would allow the district to borrow the mulcher and other equipment from Public Works in the future.
   d. Keller & Associates – City of Amity, Water Supply Project Follow-Up: Larry read and circulated the letter he composed to the City of Amity regarding the district’s position on the water supply project.
   e. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Application: Josh shared the CREP Technical Assistant application was submitted on September 11. The application requests approximately $155,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) over a two year period beginning January 1, 2018. The grant would fund one full-time position (Josh Togstad) to serve Yamhill and Marion counties and one part-time position to serve Polk County (Marc Bell). Marion SWCD increased their cash match from $10,000 to $15,000 and Polk increased their match from $9,200 to $23,500.
   f. Turner Creek Update: Larry continues to meet every six to eight weeks with the landowners. Their accountant advised them to hold off on a donation at this time due to the expenses he believed they would incur versus the benefits. Larry is preparing additional information with accurate cost estimates to use in future discussion with their accountant.

6) NEW BUSINESS:
   a. Oregon Community Foundation Grant: Marie and Larry are working with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) on a second grant proposal to the Oregon Conservation and Assistance Network (OCEAN) and engage them in discussion about the grant and opportunities for training at an upcoming CONNECT Conference. CONNECT provides annual training developed by and for conservation professionals, board members, and stakeholders throughout Oregon.

7) DISTRICT MANAGEMENT:
   a. Clean Water Services & Tualatin SWCD: Marie reviewed the basic outline of a possible partnership with Clean Water Services and Tualatin SWCD. Clean Water Services indicated their interest in funding an initiative to fund additional riparian restoration to the approximately 20 landowners in the watershed bordering Washington County. The board gave consensus to move forward and work with Clean Water Services to negotiate some possible alternates for incentive programs for Yamhill county landowners.
   b. Audit Field Visit – September 12: Larry reported the auditors were at the district office yesterday. The process went very smoothly and he complimented Julie on her thorough preparation and excellent record keeping. The completed audit should be available by the middle of October.
8) EDUCATION & OUTREACH:
   a. Farmer’s Market – August Report: Mary, Josh and Amie staffed the booth. The market was less busy than normal but productive.
   b. Annual Meeting (October 18) – Roots to Roof Advertisement and Invitation: Julie included a copy of the ad and invitations in the board packets and Mary reported the invitations will be mailed on Friday.
   c. Annual Conservation Award Nominees & Winners: The Nomination Committee met on Monday and recommended Susan Aldrich-Markham for a Special Service Award, Gene Pirelli for the Education Award and Carlton Plants for the Landowner Award. Gordon Cook moved and Leo Krick seconded to accept the committee’s recommendations for award winners as stated. The motion passed unanimously.
   
   ![VOTE RECORD: Approve Committee's Recommendations for Award Winners](image)

   d. Other Award Business: The committee proposed generic forms for future award nominations. This process will allow flexibility to choose an appropriate award. The board concurred with this request. Concerning awards: Sam requested award plaques be made of solid oak wood as opposed to a veneer product. Julie agreed to follow through with his request when ordering awards.
   e. Annual Report and Power Point Presentation: Barbara asked the board to come up with 3 - 5 highlights for Larry to cover in his Annual Report. They responded with several suggestions including; showcasing district easements and new acquisitions, the no-till drill program, the native plant sale, and updates at Miller Woods including septic field and the nursery building.
   f. Fall Pasture Grazing Field Workshop (September 19): Marie stated ten people need to register to hold the class. She encouraged board members to attend and sign up online.
   g. Harvest Festival – Heritage Center Report: Sam and Leo staffed the booth with Mary. The turnout was good and many beneficial contacts were made. Sales of “Dirt” shirts were exceptional.

9) LAND USE:
   a. Land Use Table: There was no discussion on current Land Use Applications.
   b. Land Use Applications – Responses (2): Larry shared two letters which he wrote and submitted to the county regarding proposed solar facilities on farmland. The letters were included in the board packet. There were no additional comments from the board.
10) PROTECTED PROPERTIES:

a. **Yamhela Oak Conservation Overlook (YOCO):** Mike shared sections were limbed up and Gordon Cook was then able to mow several challenging areas. Upshot Services performed spot spraying. The hay pasture has been completed and an area where the neighbor’s cows breached the fence has now been cleared. This allows the fence to be repaired. A rutted and steep road was graded and rock will be delivered tomorrow. Gordon Cook recommended thinning the trees on the property; Mike will be meeting with Miller Timber Services to discuss the possibility.

b. **Mt. Richmond:** Upshot Services, James Riedman, completed mowing and spraying on the property as outlined in his contract.

c. **Muddy Valley Habitat Reserve:** The dam has been repaired and improved. Fencing donated from The Nature Conservancy property will be used to protect the front part of the dam and keep the beavers out. US Fish & Wildlife Services (USFW) donated significant time and resources to repair the dam and area around the pond. Gordon Cook mowed the upper field. Scotch broom is an ongoing problem but has been sprayed.

d. **Chegwyn Farms:** Gordon Cook will begin mowing at Chegwyn Farms. Mike has been working with the City of McMinnville to clean out the ditch that is causing flooding in the SE part of the field. He hopes to have the problem resolved before the rains come. Larry continues to work with Bruce Wilson, the Water Rights Examiner, regarding the point of diversion transfer and hopes to have this completed the fall. He has contacted Kamal regarding a new contract for the walnut orchard.

e. **Miller Woods:** Mike reported major trail improvements, adding an additional mile of trail, which was done by volunteers using donated equipment. USFW will begin picking up plants this week and will continue throughout the fall. The year’s grow-out is approximately 70,000 plants. MW volunteers have completed the siding and stained the nursery building. Larry shared a conversation he had with John Phelan, Public Works Director, regarding the entrance to Miller Woods. John indicated his willingness to partner on the project and pave the entrance to Miller Woods in conjunction with the resurfacing project on Orchard View Road. This will create safer egress for school busses and other vehicles visiting the property. It will also help reduce the dust problem that occurs during the dry season. The district will install speed-bumps at the entrance to control speed and increase safety.

11) NOXIOUS WEED REPORT:

a. **Vern Holm “Weed Free Gravel Certification”:** Vern Holm provided information regarding “Weed Free Gravel certification”. The board asked some questions regarding the processes and liability. Vern will research their inquiries and report his findings at next month’s board meeting.

b. Mike announced he will be spraying knotweed in targeted areas throughout the county.

12) STAFF REPORTS:

a. Barbara stated she appreciated the detailed report from Josh on his attendance at the Global Leadership Summit.
13) BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

a. Dave attended a Fall Crop Meeting presented by OSU Extension. They announced they have hired a slug expert and he is very knowledgeable. He believes the district had some influence in persuading them to fill that position.

b. Gordon Dromgoole shared information regarding a dam being built in the Yamhill area. More information will be forthcoming.

c. Sam provided a tour to a farming couple from the mid-west. He found many similarities in the challenges farmers face in those states.

d. Barbara announced she was invited to sit in on a CORE meeting. She reported every entity mentioned Yamhill SWCD and our projects and partnerships.

14) AGENCY REPORTS:

a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Thomas provided a brief summary of this year’s contracts. He was pleased to announce they accomplished their goal of writing more contract than in year’s past. He will bring a proposal to the district for an outreach program to better inform landowners in the conservation strategy area of the opportunities available to them. Sam and Gordon Dromgoole shared new ideas and will meet with Thomas to discuss them further. Sam invited Thomas to attend the Ag Water Quality meeting in December and to become involved in the next planning session. Gordon Dromgoole suggested a boiler plate lease agreement be created for landowners, requiring leases to include a conservation plan.

15) PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. Commissioner Primozich shared information about a new strain of sudden oak death in Southern Oregon.

b. Vern announced that ODA is working to fill a Bio-Control position.

16) ADJOURNMENT: Barbara Boyer adjourned the meeting at 10:02 am.