

STAFFORD HAMLET  
COMMUNITY MEETING

Minutes

November 12, 2019

Chair Bill Markt called the November 12th Community meeting of the Stafford Hamlet to order at 7:04 pm at the Stafford Elementary School, West Linn, OR.

Attendance:

- ❖ Board Members Present: Richard Fiala, John Keith, Katy Krider, Patty Mamula, Bill Markt, Matthew Palmer, Len Schaber, Joe Wikoff
- ❖ Excused: Jana Lombardi
- ❖ Absent: Mary Moore
- ❖ Staff Present:

Guest Speakers Jason Fesera (Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District) and Kim Gallant (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)):

Jason Fesera began by describing what the purpose of the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is. He said it focuses on conservation, education and other programs including weed wise and funding assistance for projects. Jason described some of the projects they have done and what funding they can offer.

Richard Fiala asked if there was any money available for English ivy removal projects? Jason Fesera said the SWCD can help with site preparation if it goes with planting of native plants. He said they could help with a restoration plan.

Larry Read asked if the SWCD is involved in any projects in the Hamlet area? Jason said he did not have a project list with him and that any property could be eligible.

Patty Mamula asked if work with the SWCD is initiated by landowner or by complaint. Jason said most of the work is voluntary. He said that if the Oregon Department of Agriculture is issuing a penalty in response to a complaint and investigation then the SWCD could be involved in the resolution.

John Keith asked if the SWCD is involved in pollinator habitats. Jason said the SWCD can help with pollinators and riparian areas.

Rick Cook asked if the SWCD can help with animals such as moles and gophers. Jason said the SWCD would mostly provide referrals, though it could help with creating areas favorable to predators.

Bill Markt asked if there is any crossover with the NRCS, and Jason said they are colocated for right now and that they do have similar projects.

Kim Gallant explained what the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service does. She explained their programs, easements, and information about eligibility. The NRCS' programs are all voluntary and largely focus on working lands.

Rick Cook asked if the NRCS works with cities, and Kim Gallant said they could but that the SWCD does more.

John Keith asked if growing grass and hay counts as production under their guidelines. Kim said yes, but the question would be if it is economically viable.

A community member asked about the soil bank program. Kim Gallant explained it and said it usually goes through the Farm Service Agency. It can be in 10, 15, or 20 years and focuses on riparian areas. Kim said the focus is usually on financially assisting with restoration and the key is the land must already be in production.

Len Schaber asked how long does the history of production need to be for a property to be eligible. Kim said not very long.

Bill Markt asked is a seasonal stream counts as a riparian area, and Kim said it would probably be a lower priority.

Rick Cook asked if the NRCS is working in the area and if money for projects was available. Kim said she did not have a project list with her, and that the money available varies based on a competitive funding process and what the areas of concern are for the NRCS.

Patty Mamula asked if the NRCS can help with small farms. Kim Gallant said they can help with cover crops, seasonal tunnels, and converting to organic farming.

Richard Fiala asked if they can help with oak restoration acreage. Kim said it must be near a producing farm for them to help.

#### Board Applicants Introduction:

Board candidates Brandon Post, Jane Comer, Bill Long, Bill Markt, and Richard Fiala introduced themselves.

Adjournment: Chair Bill Markt adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.