

## Minutes of Highland Ditch Stakeholders Meeting

August 23, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Stanley Petrowski.

A Zoom meeting was set at the request of Oneea Covington. No one signed on to it except Stanley. Those in attendance at the fire hall were Chris Meirndorf, Donna Mambretti and Cookie Cullett and Stanley Petrowski. Other members of the group were on fires in the area, etc.

Stanley announced that because of the delay in the formation of the irrigation district we were unable to access \$2,000,000.00 in grant opportunities. It is incumbent on the stakeholders to form the district in short order. It has been estimated that between \$1,500,00.00 and \$2,500,000.00 will be the cost to put in the pipe with outlets to each stakeholders property and 3 fire hydrants for fire suppression.

We have letters of support from many agencies who want to work with us but until we are a District, we can't go forward. The USFWS has agreed to contribute \$2000 in consultation and \$50,000.00 in cash in support of the project.

We did get a grant for \$48,339.00 for a Technical Assistance from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. We ranked #1 among the submitted proposals to OWEB. That enables us to hire Cascade Stream Solutions, an engineering firm, to draw up three plans. On all the grants so far, we have applied for, we come in ranked #1 which illustrates support from County, State and Federal agencies for the project.

Agencies want to work with us and see us succeed. We all need water in this time of drought.

The Petition to form the District will be submitted to the law firm by August 31, 2022. If, in the future, others decide to join, they will be vetted by the district stakeholders. Upon approval they will bear the cost of hooking up to the pipe, including law firm fees to change the district boundaries etc.

Vice President Chris Meirndorf <[chris.meirndorf@swansongroup.biz](mailto:chris.meirndorf@swansongroup.biz)> will make an effort to contact Covington Living Trust for their decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Mambretti

Secretary