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## Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, February 21st 2024

**Directors Present:** Sean Negherbon (D), Scott Hendy (D), David Briggs (D), Diana Woodward (D) Walt Barton (AD)

**DSWCD Employees:** Maggie Begoun, Cindy Bright

**Partners Present:** Eric Riley (PacificBirds), Kevin Keller (PUR), David Ferguson (NRCS), Carri Pirosko (ODA), Tristen Berg (ODA), Lee Russell (ECWC)

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### *Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order by Sean Negherbon @ 4:05pm. Director roll call performed.

### *Agency Reports*

*David Ferguson (NRCS)*

NRCS runs off the federal fiscal year which goes Oct 1 - Sept 30. Multiple programs have been rolled out under different funding titles through the Farm Bill. Congress is supposed to renew the bill every five years, but it usually take six or seven years to spend them down and get renewal. We are in year six at the moment. There may be new changes in the next Farm Bill which Congress probably won't pass until after the election.

Oregon NRCS has \$30 million dollars for their incentives programs that help landowners mostly "fix" things - pasture work, forestry work, local farms. That amount dropped \$5 million though as that got transferred over to the Inflation Act programs. NRCS now has multiple budgets and programs and has to figure out which ones landowners fit into and qualify for. There are also different funding sources for specific locations such as Tiller, Oakland, Elk Creek, North Bank that can be tapped into.

NRCS has 130 applicants locally for Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) and another 12 for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP deadline has passed but CSP is deadline is in a month or so. The estimated cost for all the applicants was \$5 million dollars - but there is only \$2.5 million spread across seven counties. Most of the applicants are non-industrial force projects driven by wildfire.

Some of the local fire districts have been doing property surveys locally and when they find someone with beyond defensible space they flip the landowners to NRCS. This is partly why applicants have increased. Deadline to rank these applicants is Friday (2/23)

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and people who don't get funded this year will be first in line for next year. It is predicted that there will be increased funding in the next few years due to the entirety of NRCS on a federal level receiving \$20 billion in the inflation act that has to be spent by 2030. A lot of these funds went into higher level partnership agreements already - such as wildfire recovery for the Archie Creek Fire. NRCS is working with Glide Revitalization to still get some of those projects on the ground too.

### *Eric Riley (Pacific Birds)*

Riley has returned to his position this month at Pacific Birds. He is mostly focused on the Umpqua Oak Partnership's Strategic Action Plan. He's also doing outreach for UOP and all things oaks in the Umpqua.

### *Kevin Keller (PUR)*

PUR is getting everything prepared for their summer field season and getting contracts finalized. The PUR board is currently assessing their strategic plan and figuring out what they need to improve upon. PUR has \$5 million dollars out in grant applications. They're hoping to find out about a lot of them in mid-March. This funding is primarily for finishing the tide gates projects, Yellow Creek instream project, and S. Umpqua collaborations. They were notified last week that they received \$750k from the Natural Working Land program that was originally for a different project but got re-prioritized to their Glover and Kennedy projects.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

**Motion:** Dir. Negherbon motions to approve the minutes of the January 21st, 2024 Board & Annual Meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Financial Information***

The following financial documents were presented to the board:

- Douglas SWCD's January 2024 Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, & Check Register
- Douglas SWCD's January 2024 Expense Report

Begoun reports that Steve Tuscherer is busy again due to tax season but promised to work on getting us a payment schedule for the IRS. Dir. Negherbon recommends that the board does start payments sooner than later and Dir. Briggs recommends that the Chairman contacts Tuscherer. Dir. Negherbon agrees to do so and requests that Begoun provide a couple of dollar amounts from the transcripts to talk to Tuscherer about.

**Action Item:** Begoun to provide a couple of payroll quarterly payment options to Dir. Negherbon and Dir. Negherbon to contact Steve Tuscherere to approve starting payments.

### ***District Admin Report – Please see attached report.***

Begoun is still waiting on Clackamas SWCD to send over the necessary documents to transfer the truck. The board approves the decision to have the chair or admin sign any necessary documents and pick up the truck as soon as possible.

Begoun asks the board if they'd like to motion to get Cindy Johnsrud a plaque for serving the district. It would cost about \$50 from the unrestricted fund.

**Motion:** Dir. Briggs motions that the board provide Cindy Johnsrud with a plaque paid for from the unrestricted fund for no more than \$50. The motion passed unanimously.

Douglas County Weeds Advisory Board (DCWAB) has funds that the district manages for them. Begoun points out that there isn't an MOU to handle these funds and that she would like to create one. Within the MOU, the district can state the terms in which DCWAB can request deposits/withdrawals/reimbursements and whatnot.

Walt Barton points out that there was probably an agreement with the County a while ago but it wasn't for financial management. Dir. Negherbon requests a motion as well as an MOU by the DCWAB as well to enter into this agreement.

**Action Item:** Begoun to draw up a draft MOU between DSWCD and DCWAB (or the County) for the management of their funds.

Dir. Negherbon mentions that most of the board is up for election in November. Begoun points out that Negherbon and Briggs are up for 4-year election and that Hendy and Woodward are up for 2-year election. Dir. Briggs recommends staying on top of deadlines as everything is usually due to Sandi Hiatt (ODA) by around August. Begoun talked to Hiatt who states she is in the middle of compiling all the information for this year's elections and probably won't have any of it sent out to the boards until April. Begoun will update the board as she receives updates.

### *Elk Creek / Weeds Board Discussion*

Lee Russell states the Elk Creek Watershed Council (ECWC) is dissolving and Russell is trying to transfer all their projects to new homes, one being the district. Jamie Mast, the Chairman of ECWC, has the goal to donate the leftover unrestricted funds after the council dissolves to a legal fund that will sue the state of Oregon's department of forestry over the private forest accord. Russell hopes that somehow the council stays together and he lets the district know that he does not agree with the actions being taken by ECWC.

Russell's highest priority is getting the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) Grant transferred over to DSWCD to take care of the Class A Noxious Weeds treatments in the county. He explains that ECWC was awarded \$71.5k from OSWB which doesn't even cover the entire costs of the contractor. Russell got approval from the ECWC board to write a check to the district for the match to this grant of \$22k that does cover the entire cost of the contractor and a little extra for project management. There may be ways to reduce the contractor costs as well by reducing the number of site visits this year. Russell states that he would volunteer his time to the district to manage the project if needed and accept compensation if there were any funds left over by the end of the season.

Russell mentions that the treatments for the past 10 years have been extremely successful and it would be a shame if they couldn't continue. Carri Pirosko states that this project was originally with the district until 2017 when ECWC took over. She thinks that naturally, it should return to the district and that Begoun would be able to handle the project and work well with Pirosko. Tristen Berg states that Russell stepped in to take on this project when the district couldn't and has done an outstanding job taking care of it. Now that ECWC is going through big changes, it makes a great fit to go back to the district. Berg also suggests that the board consider hiring Russell as a contractor for grant writing and reporting if Begoun doesn't have the time.

Berg lets the district know that the easiest way to transfer the grant over would be to have the grant awarded to ECWC first and then Berg would amend the grant to switch it over to DSWCD. It will be a couple weeks before she can get this all put together.

Begoun summarizes what is being asked of the board. The district used to get this grant every year and manage it until the district got in trouble with OWEB. From there, ECWC took it over. Now they need to give it back to DSWCD as they are disbanding. The only issue seen is the lack of project management funds for Begoun's time - however there are a couple options to work through this. 1) Get contractor costs down, 2) Russell volunteers as project manager, 3) Begoun uses the admin fees (\$6500) to manage the grant, 4) ODA may be able to provide a separately funded agreement that pays for Begoun's time but it's not guaranteed.

Pirosko mentions that the Cow Creek Tribe has put in a grant of their own the Bureau of Indian Affairs to put a cash match toward this project as well which could be used for project management.

Dir. Briggs asks about the contractor rates as its been an entire year since the quote and rates are going up. Russell answers that he has worked with this contractor on this project for the past 4 years and has talked to him frequently about rates. They are around \$50/hour for their crew and guaranteed they'd keep that rate for the next year.

Pirosko mentions that this contractor has actually been with this project for 13 years and worked under Ken French when he started it. Pirosko knows that they will easily be able to stay within their budget. Invoices would be tracked closely throughout the field season to make sure they don't go over budget.

Dir. Briggs asks Russell about the timeline for the district's decision on this project? Russell answers that he got the ECWC to agree at their board meeting to do the transfer and write the check for the match which is what was really time sensitive - but he could give the board more time to make a decision.

Russell asks Berg about OWEB's preference to give the grant agreement to ECWC first before transferring. He's wondering if instead there could be a way for ECWC to not have to sign the agreement and DSWCD to be the direct recipient. Berg said that would be the cleanest way to do it, but she will return to OWEB with more questions to see if there are some other alternatives. Berg asks how much time ECWC has. Russell answers that ECWC wants to keep going until September, probably just to buy time for the lawyer they're hiring.

Dir. Briggs requests that we have more time for the entire board to understand what this transfer means and to see some information written down on paper. Begoun asks what exactly he'd like to see. Briggs answers that he'd like to see the district's financial impact, how the dollars will be used, a more detailed scope of work, and what the options are for the board. Briggs states that the board and staff are entirely new to their positions so they'd like to be as informed as possible about the agreements they make.

Dir. Hendy doesn't think that the board should get sucked into a lawsuit that ECWC is attempting to file. Begoun states that the district won't be involved in that in any way.

Dir. Negherbon suggests that the board reconvene on the issue next week after being provided more information on the grant.

**Action Item:** Begoun to compile a scope of work and project summary for the board and provide them all other necessary documents to consider before making a decision.

**Action Item:** Board to convene at 10am on Thursday, February 29th to make a decision.

**Action Item:** Cindy Bright and Lee Russell to work out more information on the other grants that ECWC would like to transfer over and will present on them at the March board meeting.

### ***Conservation Technician Report – Please see attached report.***

Cindy Bright went on a site visit on Monday to Del Blanchard's property. He is an organic grower and IT specialist. He has helped other districts with grant writing and IT stuff and would like to volunteer with our district. Bright would like to have him come to the March board meeting to introduce himself and discuss what has to offer.

Bright is working with contractors on her projects. She fixed some issues with the DEQ funding and invoicing. Bright is working with Rob at ODA and are putting together a monitoring team for the SIA. Bright believe that PUR will be a contractor receiving most of the \$25k for this monitoring effort and will be meeting with them to discuss this possibility. The budget for the SIA grant is adjustable in the future.



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The mailout to landowners in the SIA will be happening soon to invite them to our public meeting. That will be held April 4th 4pm-6pm at the Community Center in Canyonville.

The Private Forest Accord grant that Bright put in for the SIA made it through the first review and on its way to the second. She is primarily working on the SIA grant and the OWEB Restoration grants. The first project in the SIA will be on the Sherman Ranch on Weaver Creek.

Barton notes that there is a pond design that should be in the landowners files from a while ago. He suggests that Bright may want to give those to the landowner if they're still interested. Bright notes that there isn't any current funding for the implementation.

### ***Director Reports***

No directors reports this month.

### ***Conclusion of Meeting***

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09pm.

A meeting to discuss ECWC's Grant Transfer has been scheduled for **Thursday, February 29th @ 10:00am** at NRCS Roseburg.

The March Board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 20th @ 4:00pm** at NRCS Roseburg.

Submitted by Maggie Begoun for Brenda Epp, District Secretary/Treasurer.

# Approved

Douglas Soil And Water Conservation District						
Jan-24						
Statement Summary		Fund Balance				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	DO (23-25)	SOW (23-25)	AgWQ (23-24)
LGIP Account Jan 1st	\$ 240,242.65					
Checking Account Jan 1st	\$ 16,136.44	\$ 12,184.03	\$ 240,242.65	\$ 2,694.09	\$ (3,400.22)	\$ 1,258.32
<b>Jan Deposits:</b>						
319 Grant (DEQ)						
Capacity Grant 23-25 OWEB	\$ 24,148.50			\$ 7,500.00	\$ 16,648.50	
AgWQ Support						
Interest Earned	\$ 1,019.35	\$ 2.07	\$ 1,017.28			
Refund						
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$ 25,167.85</b>					
<b>Jan Debits:</b>						
Personnel Services						
Wages	\$ 7,164.70	\$ (2,439.04)		\$ (594.27)	\$ (2,727.07)	\$ (1,404.32)
PERS Retirement	\$ 537.12			\$ (537.12)		
Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,807.42				\$ (1,807.42)	
Worker's Compensation Ins.						
Total Personal Services	\$ 9,509.24					
Materials & Services						
Bank Fees	\$ 26.57	\$ (26.57)				
Accounting & Legal						
Advertising	\$ 4.33			\$ (4.33)		
Contracted Services						
Dues & Membership	\$ 75.66			\$ (75.66)		
Insurance						
Materials						
Monitoring						
Office Supplies	\$ 106.49				\$ (106.49)	
Office Rent	\$ 95.00				\$ (95.00)	
Staff Travel & Training	\$ 173.58				\$ (173.58)	
Telephone	\$ 103.14				\$ (103.14)	
Utilities	\$ 36.98				\$ (36.98)	
Total Materials & Services	\$ 621.75					
<b>Total Charges to Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 10,130.99</b>	<b>\$ (2,463.54)</b>		<b>\$ (1,211.38)</b>	<b>\$ (5,049.68)</b>	<b>\$ (1,404.32)</b>
<b>Grant Balances</b>				<b>\$ 8,982.71</b>	<b>\$ 8,198.61</b>	<b>\$ (146.00)</b>
Checking Account Jan 31st	\$ 30,156.02					
Unrestricted in Checking	\$ 12,974.70					
LGIP Account Jan 31st	\$ 241,259.93					

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## Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District

02/15/24

### Balance Sheet

Cash Basis

As of January 31, 2024

	Jan 31, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
US Bank Checking	30,156.02
LGIP-Operating Reserve	241,259.93
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	271,415.95
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
Accounts Receivable	-19,999.99
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	-19,999.99
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	251,415.96
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>251,415.96</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
Accounts Payable	-8.00
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	-8.00
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Payroll Liabilities</b>	
Transit Tax - Employee	-19.35
Direct Deposit Liabilities	-15.75
Payroll Tax - 941 Deposit	129,859.28
Payroll Tax - FUTA	700.50
Payroll Tax -OR Quarterly	978.60
Payroll Tax - SIT	9,275.96
Payroll Liabilities - Other	63.81
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	140,843.05
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	140,843.05
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	140,835.05
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	140,835.05
<b>Equity</b>	
Fund Balance	2,469.91
Retained Earnings	64,635.42
Net Income	43,475.58
<b>Total Equity</b>	110,580.91
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>251,415.96</b>



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1:33 PM

## Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District

02/15/24

### Profit & Loss

Cash Basis

January 2024

	<u>Jan 24</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Expense	
Bank	
Monthly Fees	26.57
Total Bank	26.57
Office	
Computers Programs	19.99
Dues & Memberships	79.99
Internet	16.99
Rent	95.00
Supplies	106.49
Telephone	103.14
Total Office	421.60
Payroll Expenses	
Personnel	-24,148.50
Payroll-Gross Wages	9,001.00
Payroll Expenses - Other	923.95
Total Payroll Expenses	-14,223.55
Payroll Taxes	
Payroll-FICA	607.66
Payroll-FUTA	58.81
Payroll-Medicare	142.11
Payroll-PERS	537.12
Payroll-SUI	254.83
Payroll-Workers Comp	3.28
PERS-ER	0.00
Total Payroll Taxes	1,603.81
Total Expense	-12,171.57
Net Ordinary Income	12,171.57
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	2.07
Total Other Income	2.07
Net Other Income	2.07
Net Income	<u><u>12,173.64</u></u>

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## Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District

2/15/2024 1:34 PM

Register: US Bank Checking

From 01/01/2024 through 01/31/2024

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Memo</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Balance</b>
01/02/2024	1022024	Begoun, Maggie O	-split-		1,257.98	X		14,456.14
01/02/2024	1022024	Bright, Cynthia K	-split-		2,170.85	X		12,285.29
01/02/2024	1022024	Internal Revenue Ser...	-split-	93-0951189	1,385.10	X		10,900.19
01/09/2024	1092024	Verizon	Accounts Payable		103.14	X		10,797.05
01/12/2024			-split-	Deposit		X	24,148.50	34,945.55
01/12/2024	1122024	US Bank Visa	Accounts Payable		242.80	X		34,702.75
01/12/2024	1122024	Oregon PERS.	Accounts Payable		253.80	X		34,448.95
01/19/2024	1192024	Begoun, Maggie O	-split-		1,420.43	X		33,028.52
01/19/2024	1192024	Bright, Cynthia K	-split-		2,489.02	X		30,539.50
01/25/2024	1252024	Government Ethics C...	Accounts Payable		75.66	X		30,463.84
01/26/2024	1262024	Oregon PERS.	Accounts Payable		283.32	X		30,180.52
01/31/2024			Interest Income	Interest		X	2.07	30,182.59
01/31/2024			Bank:Monthly Fees	Service Charge	26.57	X		30,156.02

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## February Admin Report 2024

Welcome new Zone 1 Director - Diana Woodward!

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> @ 3:00pm - NRCS Office Roseburg

### IRS

Waiting to hear back from Steve on his recommendation- He said it may take some time for him to get us a schedule since it's tax season again. [But you can find our payroll transcripts here.](#) I've included that document Steve previously gave us about how much we owe. Looks like around \$150k. He should be able to give us a more accurate representation now I think.

*I think it would make more sense to wait for Steve's help than try to make a payback calendar on my own. Again, it may take some time for him to get back to us with a schedule and I will probably have to pester him a little bit along the way.*

### Vehicle

Dodge Dakota from Clackamas SWCD is a go! The district manager over there is organizing the surplus and donation paperwork – but THEIR board won't have it signed/approved until their meeting February 20<sup>th</sup>. It's most likely we will pick it up at the end of Feb/early March.

We are insured. I have ordered the gas card. And Gilaine is organizing the Quickbooks to have a vehicle fund - I have a meeting with here next week to make sure we understand how it will work.

### Previous Directors

This one slipped my mind...

What are the board's thoughts on getting Cindy Johnsrud a plaque (like we did for Terry & George)? They're only \$50.. And I would probably need to mail it to her unless we invited her for a meeting. It probably would have made more sense for the annual meeting... but oh well.

### Elections

In November of this year, most of the directors are up for election.

# Approved

At-Large 2 (Sean) = Up for a 4 year re-election.

Zone 1 (Diana) = Up for a 2 year re-election.

Zone 2 (Scott) = Up for a 2 year re-election.

Zone 3 (David) - Up for a 4 year re-election.

*At-Large 1 (Brenda) = Not up for election. Expires 2026.*

More info to come in the next month or so about deadlines for election documents.

## **Douglas County Weeds Advisory Board Funds**

The DSWCD holds onto the Weeds Advisory Boards funds for them. We have about \$4500 in our LGIP that is theirs to spend. As far as I know, we don't have any written documentation about how we fiscally administer funds for them.

They have inquired about withdrawing some to spend on refreshments and vehicle rentals in the future. I would like to discuss with the board how you all would prefer to go about this. I don't have a problem spending the money for them and billing their funds from our LGIP and noting it in the QuickBooks - but maybe we should have a documented agreement made between the boards.

[See their QuickBooks report here.](#)

## **Elk Creek Watershed Council (ECWC) / Oregon State Weed Board Grant**

They are disbanding in a vote of 9 to 1. Over the next few months they will be sorting out their finances and preparing for their end. This is important to us because:

They were just awarded \$71.5k from the Oregon State Weed Board for treatment of "Class A" Noxious Weeds and would like to start transferring this project/grant to us. We previously were the caretakers of this projects so it would be great to have it back. ECWC plans to also send about \$20k over to us in match. This is entirely to fund the contractor who does the work for about \$90k.

Issue for Discussion: The district needs project management money to facilitate this project. Both ECWC and ODA are willing to work with us to make sure this happens. Whether it comes in the form of additional match money from ECWC, adjusting the grant

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budget to cover project management, or entering into a separate agreement with ODA - there are options.

Everyone involved is fully aware that we cannot take on this project if there is no management money awarded with it. It is likely that Lee Russell from ECWC, Carri Pirosko & Tristen Berg from ODA will attend our board meeting to explain more.

## **Grants/Project Updates**

*I'm currently working on six grants due March - May.*

**Good Neighbor Authority (BLM)** – Support private land weeds work adjacent to BLM lands.

**Mitigation Fund (PacificCorp/USFS/BLM)** – Applying to work on public land weeds in the N. Umpqua that will complement the work we do on private lands in the area.

**Title II** – Announcement just made! \$5 million available, each project usually caps at \$250k. Let me know if you want to learn more about the grant itself. Will be applying for at least the fairgrounds project if not more (maybe a supplemental grant for the State Weed Board Class A project as well).

**Heely Foundation** – Working with Umpqua Farm to School & Elder Oaks Nursery to get pollinator plant kits for local public schools + help them design the gardens and plant them.

**Fairgrounds** – Working with the County. Applying for Title II. Looking into other funding sources.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board** – Clarification and detail on what qualifies for their recent grant has been poor. I'm stepping back from these grants until OWEB can provide clear guidelines. The Western Invasives Network for our region is taking on the role of coordination with OWEB on our behalf to get more details.

## **Website**

New website is officially up on our domain ([www.dswcd.org](http://www.dswcd.org)).

I have a lot of work to do with it and I'm slowly adding bits and pieces here and there when I have time. In the future, I'd love to get some quick board member pictures & bios up.

***April Board Meeting is the same time that Cindy & I will be at the Connect+ conference in Sunriver. We will need to reschedule it.***

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**February 2024 Cindy K. Bright Conservation Technician**

**ODA/SIA:**

Stake hold meeting had a good turnout and as a result I have begun working with the Cow Creek tribe for a combined project on Beals creek and with Partners for the Umpqua River, PUR, on possible combined projects and contracting them for the water quality monitoring portion of the SIA. \$25,000 of the SIA is required to go towards monitoring. We are working with ODA on developing a veg monitoring team, plan and protocol. We will most likely do the veg monitoring, but PUR already had the set up and protocol with DEQ for the water quality monitoring so it makes sense that they should do it. We have a meeting scheduled on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss with PUR. And we begin the ODA monitoring planning process on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The landowner meeting is now secured and planned for April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm at the Canyonville Community center. ODA will be mailing out invites to the SIA tax lots that we reviewed.

I have begun to plan the first SIA project on the Sherman ranch. It will involve improving livestock water availability, installing hard use areas for troughs and feeding areas and a restoration project on Weaver creek. I'm very excited for this project.

The SIA grant has finally posted on OWEB. I have been spending a lot of time getting this proposal done. The closing date is March 5<sup>th</sup>. I'd like to have it ready by Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the latest. I am almost done with the draft. Then I will send to Maggie to review and complete budget details.

The PFA grant for the SIA project proposal has finished the first round of review with positive feed back now it will go into the next review. The next round of review meetings to discuss projects will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Hope for the best.

**OWEB:**

Still waiting on feed back on the small grant submitted for Morgan creek.

The restoration grant window finally opened and I'm currently uploading proposals for Fall creek, Buckhorn creek, Doerner creek and hopefully can get another to extend the Pheasant creek project. The deadline is April.

**DEQ:**

We received the draft contract for the 319 funds, but since it has taken so long for approval of release of funds project timeline may need to be adjusted. In addition, it turns out this is a reimbursement grant. Which means we start the project, pay the contractor then submit for

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reimbursement. And the admin 10% of the grant will be held back until the project is completed. I have a meeting planned to discuss if we can request advancement of payments.

If we can work out some of the details of fund availability for 319 grant I will go for it for match funding on the new Weaver creek project.

## **Other:**

Still spending a lot of time on grants, collaborations, and SIA related tasks, which will continue on through March.

**DCLA** Spring conference planning is going well. We had more meetings to line up presenters etc. There will be presentations related to cattle, sheep, and forage/pasture production and more. Three sessions will occur at the same time during the day. We met at the fairgrounds to go over the layout on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have the main conference hall and arena. It is now open to the public as an Ag expo. If you want to join the DCLA conference dinner, make sure to get tickets in advance to secure a place. We anticipate a good turnout.

April 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am to 8pm. Flyers will be coming out soon. Our next planning meeting is Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

I also attended the last DCLA livestock breakfast where I met a couple of landowners with resource issues. I have two tentatively planned site visits to assess in Oakland and South Myrtle.

## **Workshops:**

The Weed drone workshop demo tentatively in May, but still trying to nail down the contractor. I have tried contacting him, but he has not returned my emails. I've heard of another drone contractor I may try to have instead.

I've begun discussions with Logan, OSU ext., on developing the workshop on erosion control and bank stability techniques. It will be a hands-on experience on how to create willow and cottonwood stakes and how and where to place them, and on grass species that can best hold soils and filter run off and on bank shaping. We are tentatively planned it for June 28<sup>th</sup>.