Illinois Valley Watershed Council

Regular Bi-Monthly Council Meeting

Illinois Valley WC Office/ZOOM

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Called to Order September 23, 2021 by Bill Reid, Chairman at 6:00 pm

**ATTENDEES ZOOM ATTENDEES ABSENTEES**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| William Reid | Patricia Downing | Joy McEwen |
| Don Young | Marcy Sowa |  |
| Robert Schmidt | Katrina Poydack |  |
| Rhett Nelsen | James Gurley |  |
| Carol Crawford | Gene Merrill |  |
| Janice Denney | Robert Webb |  |
| Kevin O’Brien (staff) |  |  |
| Arlyse DeLoyola (Staff) |  |  |
| Chris Hall (Staff) | Also zoom |  |
| Tracey Brandt (SWCD Staff) | Also zoom |  |
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**SCRIBE**

Notes were taken by Arlyse DeLoyola

* **Minutes**: The minutes from the July meeting were presented to the Council for review.
* Don Young made a motion to approve the minutes for July.
* Carol Crawford seconded that motion.
* The motion carried without dissent.
* **Financials**: The Financial Reports from July 1, 2019 – August 31, 2021, were presented to the Council for review.
* Carol Crawford made a motion to accept the financial reports.
* Don Young seconded that motion.
* The motion carried without dissent.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Water Subcommittee report**
	+ - Chris Hall gave an update on the committee’s activities. They have been working on their Purpose, Goals and Objectives outline.
* **Growing Restoration partnership with Josephine County**
	+ Kevin reported that he recently met again with commissioner Fowler to make sure he was aware that the Council would like to be considered as a restoration partner in the aftermath of the large scale grow busts. He suggested that the county designate a portion of permit fees to remediation, and those fees should go to the Councils and SWCDs serving in the areas of affected properties. He volunteered to be available for any meetings where his input may be useful. Commissioner Fowler stated that his request was very timely and that the commission is working on these issues. Kevin also thanked him for attending the SWCD meeting in June. Discussion followed and the idea of approaching law enforcement with alternative methods for taking down grows in a more environmentally friendly way was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Organizational Restructuring**

Bill introduced the subject by providing a brief history of the formation of the Council and the reason it was structured. Kevin O’Brien then read a statement confirming the intentions to recommend the Council be 100% independent in its governance from the IVSWCD board of directors. He explained he had requested this agenda item to discuss his recommendation conceptually before moving forward any further. Kevin empathized with the challenges to dealing with the foundational level change he would be recommending. He assured the directors that s decision from them on the matter was not being sought at this time and he looked forward to continuing to serve no matter what their decision on the matter will be when that time comes. The restructuring could serve to strengthen the missions of both organizations and would still allow them to work closely together, as always. Discussion followed and included concerns that the Watershed Council could not stand on its own were raised. Kevin explained that it has been doing so for years. Chairman Reid expressed concern that since the SWCD board are elected officials, we would need a consistent method for board recruitment in order to have quality members.

It was suggested that the by-laws would have to be re-written or amended. Kevin assured that it needed to be done regardless of whether the boards were separated. It was noted that the CPA firm had suggested the separation of boards in their annual review. The issue was tabled to a later meeting.

* **Financial Review**

 Arlyse referred the directors to the Financial Review provided by our accountants. The review was discussed.

* Partnership support for SWCD TA Grant

Tracey Reed was introduced and explained that the SWCD was writing a grant and requested a letter of support from the Watershed Council, as a grant partner. Kevin volunteered to draft a letter for Bill to sign, with Board approval.

* A motion was made by Carol Crawford to support the partnership TA Grant of the SWCD.
* Bob Schmidt seconded the motion.
* The motion carried without dissent.

 Chris Hall added that he is currently in the process of writing a grant to continue to staff the Community Organizer (engagement) position for the SWCD. He asked that the board also consider a letter of support for that grant, as a partner organization.

* Rhett Nelsen made a motion to have the board issue a letter of support for the proposed grant.
* Bob Schmidt seconded the motion
* The motion carried without dissent.

**CONTINUING**

* **Staff and partnering agency reports were presented to the board:**
* Kevin gave his report, updating that the Page Creek project was officially on hold until next season and an extension had been granted from OWEB. He also told the board that a new group of partners had formed in the Illinois Valley that includes the Forest Service, BLM, RBP, Freshwater Trust, Soil and Water Conservancy and others, to do work in the Illinois Valley Watershed.
* Arlyse reviewed her report adding that she had applied for a SOREDI grant a while back and had received word that the grant was approved. More details will be available once the award arrives.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is to be held on **November 18th** at 6:00 PM- at the office and via ZOOM. Details will be in your packets.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned by Bill Reid, Council Chairman, at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED MINUTES: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_