**Ash Creek Water Control District Board Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2024, 7 PM**

**(an in-person meeting at Independence City Hall, downstairs)**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Mancil Russell called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM
2. **Roll Call:** In person, Tom Wilson, Madeline Fisher, Mancil Russell, Andrea Melendy, Ed Matteo. On Zoom, Molly Barbano, Suzanne Teller, Aubrey McCloud. Absent: Emmanuel Goicochea (on paternity leave). Staff: Marilyn Morton.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Ed noted that minutes of August 2024 should have read that when it’s wet the nutria population increases. Then Ed moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Andrea 2nd, motion passed unanimously.
4. **Audience Comments:** Suzanne discussed the obstacles on the bridge. Molly Barbano is interested in joining the ACWCD board. Marilyn will check eligibility (Molly Barbano is a listed owner of property on Sacre Ln, Monmouth).
5. **Director Comments:**

Andrea asked if Tom could redirect emails from ACWCD to personal emails. He will look into that, and took other requests to do the same. There have been some difficulties getting onto to ACWCD email.

1. **Reports**
2. **Precipitation Report:** Madeline noted in August 2024, .55” of precipitation; for the preceding 3 years precipitation was .22”, .00” and .06”.
3. **Finance: Monthly Report.** Tom reported that finances were consistently similar, noted that reports were delivered to the board in the agenda packet, and noted that he’d made a payment to Ascension Accounting using the credit card in order to avoid any late fees. He believes there is still $300 left on the card, and that the use of the card has been efficient.
4. **Phone: Monthly Report.** Mancil will deliver a phone report next month.
5. **Nutria: Monthly Report:** Ed reported that one nutria had been caught in Old Town; two were caught the month before. 54 traps are currently in use. Currently there are lots of deer. No nutria have been sighted in Inspiration Garden but the beavers are very much in evidence. ACWCD signage is fading in some areas, especially Riverview Park. Mancil will check this out to see if cleaning or replacement is needed. Ed submitted reports on trap deployment for June, July and August.
6. **Engineer’s Report:** none at this time
7. **Unfinished Business**
8. **Board Vacancies & Appointments.** Molly is interested in joining the board. Emmanuel is out on paternity leave. Board members were asked to talk to friends, as there are still board vacancies.
9. **Grants.** Talmadge Middle School grant is going out tomorrow. Madeline reported that Brian Dutton at WOU is going to do an Emerald Ash Borer project and funding may exceed the usual $500 grant maximum. The board instructed that the same grant paperwork can be used and that larger grants would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Discussion continued about Emerald Ash Borers’ presence in our area, and what locations might be most affected.
10. **Acknowledgement of Karin Johnson’s service to ACWCD board.** There was discussion about use of public funds for gratitude gifts to employees with 20” years of service. Todd had checked with the county and concluded that a $200-$300 gift certificate plus a plaque would not be considered a waste of funds. Timing for presentation was discussed.
11. **Obstructions on bridge railings/old trestle.** Mancil has pictures from last year (from area behind Seven Star store on N Main St), and it’s no better than last year. Railroad has apparent responsibility here? Jason from the city investigated obstructions in Pioneer Park and has reached out to ACWCD. City will help at a volunteer event, Brandt’s can provide a dumpster, Suzanne can help with organization of a volunteer event. Discussion continued about mitigation of creek obstructions, staff and/or volunteer time needed, appropriate disposal, and how to manage obstructions on private property (may need owner permission). Tom asked if Luckiamute Watershed Council could look into the trestle situation; ACWCD will support needed work with financial contribution(s). Permitting was discussed. There will be no vote by ACWCD board until actual action/cost is proposed. Suggested that work happen before arrival of high water. Labor/cost estimate at this time: 15 hours of work, about $1,000 in cost. Conclusion: let ACWCD know what is needed and when. Suzanne will follow up and report at a future meeting.
12. **Set date for meeting on 10-year plan update.** Board decided to set a date in approximately March, 2025, with completion of the 10-year plan to be done in 2026. Discussion continued about reach and content of a 10-year plan.
13. **New Business:** None
14. **Miscellaneous Business/Information Items**
15. **Correspondence:** Certified mail to pick up; Received money from CN A (overpayment)
16. **Task Log:** no information at this time
17. **Adjourn:** Tom moved to adjourn, Ed 2nd. Meeting ended at 7:48 PM.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 3, 2024, 7 PM, at Independence City Hall, with zoom available:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82158510794>