



**Land Legacy Committee (LLC) Meeting Agenda
East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District**

(January 24, 2022)

Monday, January 31, 2022, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

To be held via videoconference: (US Toll Free: 1 877 309 2073 Access Code: 993-088-381 OR log in on your computer, tablet, or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/993088381>.)

AGENDA

Item #	Time	Agenda Item	Purpose	Presenter	Packet
1	4:00 5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Call to Order • Review/revise agenda • Previous action items • Approval of November 29, 2021, meeting minutes 	Information/ Decision	Zimmer- Stucky	a) 11/29/2021 LLC Meeting Minutes
2	4:05 5 mins	Time reserved for public comment ¹	Information	Public	n/a
3	4:10 15 mins	Farm Access Equity Initiative	Information	Shipkey/ Brown/ Zimmer-Stucky	n/a
<u>Overview:</u> Staff and Zimmer-Stucky will provide an update on the status of the Farm Access Equity Initiative.					
4	4:25 20 mins	Monitoring / Management	Information	Shipkey	n/a
<u>Overview:</u> Staff will provide a briefing on EMSWCD's working farmland easement and agricultural management plan monitoring and management work.					
5	4:45 5 mins	Property Updates	Information	Shipkey	n/a
<u>Overview:</u> Staff will provide an update on several closed land transactions.					
6	4:50 20 mins	Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) held for discussion of real estate negotiations	Information/ Discussion	Shipkey/ Kohl	n/a
<u>Overview:</u> Staff will provide updates on several active land conservation projects, and a possible collaboration with Outgrowing Hunger.					
7	5:10 50 mins	Land Legacy Program Strategic Planning Discussion	Information/ Discussion	Brown/ Caldwell/ Dozier	n/a
<u>Overview:</u> The Land Legacy Committee will have a facilitated discussion addressing strategic considerations for the Land Legacy Program. Staff will provide a perspective on possible scenarios for the future direction of the program, including resourcing implications, to inform the discussion.					

¹ Each member of the public who wishes to speak shall be given approximately 3 minutes.



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8	6:00	Closing Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcements and Reminders • Action Items • Adjourn 	Information	Zimmer- Stucky	n/a
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EMSWCD Board Members, Officers and Meeting Dates:

EMSWCD Board			LLC	Year	FY21-22 Schedule	Board	LLC
Members	Positions	Officers					
Joe Rossi	Zone 1 Director		X	2021	July	12 th	26 th
Laura Masterson	Zone 2 Director	Secretary	X		August	2 nd	
Mike Guebert	Zone 3 Director	Chair	X		September	13 th	27 th
Jim Carlson	At-Large 1 Director	Treasurer	X		October	4 th	
Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky	At-Large 2 Director	Vice Chair	Chair		November	1 st	29 th
					December	6 th	
				2022	January	6 th	31 st
					February	7 th	
					March	7 th	28 th
					April	4 th	
					May	2 nd	23 rd
					June	6 th	



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Land Legacy Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 29, 2021

4:01pm - Call to Order

Zimmer-Stucky called to order the regular meeting of the EMSWCD Land Legacy Committee at 4:01pm on Monday, November 29, 2021, via teleconference.

Introductions, Review/revise agenda, Review previous action items

Zimmer-Stucky conducted introductions for the record. The following persons were present:

Land Legacy Committee: Joe Rossi (Zone 1 Director), Laura Masterson (Zone 2 Director), Mike Guebert (Zone 3 Director), Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky (At-Large Director 2)

Absent: Jim Carlson (At-Large Director 1)

Staff: Nancy Hamilton (Executive Director), Andrew Brown (Conservation Program Supervisor), Matt Shipkey (Land Legacy Program Manager), Dan Mitten (CFO), Julie DiLeone (Rural Lands Program Supervisor), Monica McAllister (Community Connections Liaison), Suzanne Easton (Grants Program Manager), Asianna Fernandez (Clerk of the Board)

Guests: Chris Wallace-Caldwell, Jamila Dozier

Previous Action items

- LLC members to provide to staff any suggestions they may have for desired topics at future meetings, and what information could be developed to best inform a discussion about LLP emphasis.
- Shipkey to keep LLC members apprised of key developments with Farm Access Equity Advisory Group.

Approval of minutes

MOTION: Guebert moved to approve the September 27, 2021 LLC meeting minutes

Rossi 2nd

Motion unanimously approved (4-0)

4:07pm - Time reserved for public comment

n/a

4:07pm – Land Legacy Program Strategic Planning Discussion

Wallace-Caldwell and Dozier, consultants, presentation regarding how to leverage the time the board spends together during LLC meetings as part of Strategic Planning for the Land Legacy Program.

Questions:

1. When you think about the future of Agriculture in our service area, what are the challenges that need to be addressed?
 - a. Guebert: Climate change - how people will go about looking at agriculture and how farmers continue farming. Supporting infrastructure for farmers, and our unique needs being situated in an urban area. Cost of labor vs. farm revenue. Perpetual risk of wildfires. Cost of farmland for new farmers.



- b. Masterson: Land base, which is limited in East Multnomah - preserving undeveloped agricultural land for farming instead of being developed for other purposes. Equity component - composition of farmers on the land is not reflective of our demographics, e.g. Black urban residents and Black farmers not leveling out, Mexican farm workers prevalent but not Mexican farm owners.
 - c. Zimmer-Stucky: Cost of farmland, how do we create opportunities for farmers from Headwaters Farm to continue on to owning land. How do we connect farmers to affordable farmland?
 - d. Rossi: Market forces - farms in Multnomah County lack scale, pay grade for labor is higher, topography complex, high cost of farmland, compliance with government programs can be challenging. Labor reporting burdens. Supply Chains. Does Multnomah County have enough sizeable, farmable land to maintain a successful agricultural industry?
2. What do you see as the district's role in addressing these challenges? (Not prioritizing challenges)
- a. Guebert: Role for this committee to address farm access, ownership and protection. Closing equity gap (at Headwaters and elsewhere). Work in the Gorge to mitigate wildfire risk may have positive impact on reducing fire threat to farmland. Some of these might be out of our purview, but with climate change we can have impact on the local level and encourage neighboring districts to act as well. We can affect soil and water in a way that mitigates climate impacts.
 - b. Zimmer-Stucky: EMSWD has a role to play in addressing some of these problems. Finding niche that East Multnomah farmers fill and supporting that niche, East Multnomah farms are not going to look like the rest of Oregon's farms. Local government doing best for greater good. Also see value in supporting non-farmland projects in urban areas. Using funds strategically to support a defined vision (and what is that vision?).
 - c. Rossi: Finding a niche – there are many kinds of farming, no dairy farming or orchards in the area because they are no longer economically viable in our area. Targeted for our taxpayers and supporting people in the kind of farming that can be successful in East Multnomah. Mission Statement - emphasis on helping people. Cautioned against mission creep. Do we have the ability to impact climate change?
 - d. Masterson: What kind of producers are we going to need/want/be profitable in the future? Let market forces dictate, but create opportunities for entrepreneurial farmers to have access to farmland. Easements help with securing the agricultural land base. Also see role for the district in educating next generation of farmers.
 - e. Wallace-Caldwell: Sees a lot of commonality in the comments shared. Suggested we center our mission and consider what our niche is.
 - f. Easton: We have and can advance many of these issues by supporting and collaborating with other organizations through the Grants Program (EcoTrust, Zenger Farms, etc.)
3. How do we ensure that we are incorporating the perspectives of our constituents in this process?
- a. Zimmer-Stucky: 2 minutes for public comment during public meetings is inadequate. Advisory committees, targeted focus groups, deep dives into difficult/complex topics are all great tools.
 - b. Dozier: Who are your constituents?
 - i. Masterson: All taxpayers in East Multnomah, current farmers, next generation of farmers, but overall, those who are most interested in agriculture are key constituents we want to be talking to moving forward. Organizations working on similar issues.
 - c. Guebert: Targeted focus groups, maintaining relationships with other groups, intentionally interacting with Farm Bureau/Friends of Family Farmers, listening to those who have other views for more ideas.



- d. Rossi: Nancy to engage outside groups who may have ideas. Achieve mission statement with diverse ideas. Are we hearing all perspectives?
 - e. Masterson: Other staff already have great relationships within the community, how to leverage those as well as Nancy? As a board member, how do I leverage my networks to hear other opinions/needs?
4. With working farmland easements and acquisitions, what are the short term and long-term outcomes you would like to see?
- a. Guebert: Long term: sustainable farming community persists in our service area. Small properties make it hard to make a living. Short term: more work on equity to encourage and support a more diverse farming community, consider alternatives to farm ownership.
 - b. Zimmer-Stucky: Acknowledge difference between easements on a property vs. acquiring outright and where we are going to put our focus. Not as large an appetite for easement program as there is for outright acquisition in East Multnomah. Short-term: clarity on where we going to put most of our energy (easements vs fee) in strategic planning. Long term: evaluation of the choices we made, which could help us decide on budget priorities.
 - c. Masterson: Agreed with Zimmer-Stucky about importance of deciding whether the focus should be on easements or outright purchase (while acknowledging that outright purchase often eventually entail an easement). Long term: choosing best use of resources from a variety of proposed projects. Vibrant and thriving agricultural sector.
 - d. Rossi: Picking best options with staff help, focused on projects that help people. Quantify what success is. Hesitant on acquiring farmland if it means we are limiting our ability to help more small farmers. Long-term: best application of our budget.
5. What questions do you think we should be asking ourselves about the Land Legacy Program?
- a. Masterson: Is there a more efficient/effective way to protect our farmland base for the long haul? How do we help current and future farmers to be successful? How do we improve access to resources for historically disadvantaged communities?
 - b. Zimmer-Stucky: Are there any changes we want to make to this program to benefit the current and future farmers in East Multnomah? How can we learn from the past and apply it to the future? How does this program address historical inequities regarding access to land in East Multnomah and across Oregon?
 - c. Guebert: Who are the players in this field and how can we leverage our work with them, what areas are not being met by anyone else and how to we address those issues and achieve our goals?
 - d. Rossi: Where are there opportunities for collaboration, and where are there gaps?

5:07: Hamilton asked the board: Do you believe it would be valuable to take time at LLC meetings for strategic planning?

Masterson: Would be open to going back to a more agricultural focused Land Legacy Committee.

Zimmer-Stucky: Interested in finding a balance between agriculture and natural area preservation, suggested a gap analysis.

Brown: Let staff know if any information or analyses can help for these discussions in future.



5:13 pm – Farm Access Equity Initiative

Brown gave history of LLC's commitment to work on farm access equity: In 2020 Board adopted additional LLP goal to "Completed transaction that address farmland access inequities by prioritizing access for members of communities negatively impacted by racial discrimination and dispossession." In 2020 after the sale of the Gordon Creek property fell through, the LLC committed to creating farm access opportunities at the Gordon Creek property for members of communities negatively impacted by racial discrimination and dispossession.

The advisory group is made up of a group of smart, passionate community members who are advising EMSWCD staff on: (a) how to make Gordon Creek available to farmers and (b)? what additional investments in activities could EMSWCD make (in its work and the work of others) to help with broadening access to farmland. The advisory group will be designing a proposal, criteria, and evaluation to come up with recommendation for the use of Gordon Creek farm.

Shipkey shared a personal story of a community member around accessing farmland that spoke to the why behind the work of addressing farm access inequities. The story illustrated how that without credit or collateral (which is often not available to members of communities negatively impacted by racial discrimination and dispossession), the ability to actually obtain land is greatly reduced, even if farmers can demonstrate their ability to farm the land successfully and have impressive track record in farming.

Shipkey provided a recap of the first meeting with advisory group meeting. This focused on: why farm protection work, challenges to access farmland, introductions and team building, the identification of advisory group roles and scope, as well as space for comment and questions, and brainstorming group values and agreements.

Tomorrow's advisory group meeting will cover: Review and adopt group values and agreements, discuss some district objectives for Gordon Creek Farm, collective wisdom activity around positive and negative aspects of other farm access projects the group is aware of, and responding to a query the group had at the last meeting about what consideration the board will give to the recommendations of the advisory group.

Asked the LLC members to respond to the following question the advisory group had: *Several of the Advisory Group members noted that they had served in similar positions in the past, and that there were unfortunate instances where the recommendations of the Group weren't given much consideration or valued, and that it was apparent the purpose of the Group was to "check a box" towards the end of saying the "community was consulted." Advisory Group members wanted to know from Board members "what will be different this time" and what do they say in response to these concerns?*

- a. Guebert: Excited to hear new ideas and recommendations that the board may not have considered before. Open minded and willing to accept recommendations, but would need to see what the recommendation is.
- b. Zimmer-Stucky: Wants this effort to be broader than just the Gordon Creek property. If there is value in or a desire to have a board member sit in and participate, she is willing to play that role so she can share that information back to the LLC and board.
- c. Masterson: Don't want to be in the position of not being able to accept recommendations and so would like for the board to be kept up to date with all ideas and proposals and wants to stay on the same page by communicating early and often so that we avoid getting out of sync.

Rossi asked if any mortgage brokers or agricultural lenders are on advisory committee? He stressed the importance of having someone with this experience in acquiring agricultural land.

Easton mentioned the importance of letting advisors know where their questions and considerations are going in real time.



Caldwell asked board to think about the barrier between them and the advisory group? Suggests the LLC do more than conveying comments through Brown and Shipkey to keep an open door.

5:48pm – Property Update

Shipkey noted the Shaull property closed on November 15th. A stabilization and enhancement plan for the property expected from Gresham within 6 months, and Gresham will include EMSWCD in property planning efforts.

Corbett-Springdale Farm: lease extension with Cal-Farms anticipated soon, including the incorporation of practice improvements in the lease for 2022.

Rossi asked to be invited to site visit to Corbett-Springdale Farm between EMSWCD and Cal-Farms farm crew.

Action Item: Brown to circle back with Rossi after meeting and set up separate meeting or site visit for further discussion.

5:53pm - Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) held for discussion of real estate negotiations

Executive session entered at 5:53pm

Executive session ended at 6:01pm

6:01pm – Monitoring

Content for this agenda item included in the Power Point that was sent to the LLC. Discussion not needed at this time. Conversation moved to January.

6:02pm - Closing items: announcements, reminders, and action items

Action Item: Outgrowing Hunger partnership opportunity to be presented at January LLC meeting. (Brown & Shipkey)

Action Item: Monitoring presentation made at January LLC meeting. (Brown & Shipkey)

Action Item: Making time in LLC meetings for strategic planning conversation. Wallace-Caldwell, Dozier, and Hamilton to coordinate with Brown and Shipkey for future agendas.

Action Item: Looking through notes of strategic planning discussion and identifying potential information needs or analysis to help advance conversation. (Brown & Shipkey)

Action Item: Placeholder in future agendas to talk about Farm Access Equity Advisory Group. (Fernandez)

6:06pm - Adjournment

Zimmer-Stucky adjourned the meeting at 6:06pm.