



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

(May 17, 2022)

Monday, May 23, 2022, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

To be held at EMSWCD’s Gordon Creek Farm Property, 36403 SE Gordon Creek Road, Corbett, OR 97019

AGENDA

Item #	Time	Agenda Item	Purpose	Presenter	Packet
1	4:00 60 mins	Walking Tour of EMSWCD’s Gordon Creek Farm and Big Creek Farm	Discussion	N/A	n/a
<u>Overview:</u> LLC members and staff will tour these 2 District properties.					
2	5:00 45 mins	Roundtable Discussion	Discussion	N/A	n/a
<u>Overview:</u> LLC members will have an opportunity for a free-flowing discussion about the Land Legacy Program.					
3	5:45 15 mins	Closing Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of March 28, 2022 meeting minutes • Announcements and Reminders • Action Items • Adjourn 	Information/ Decision	Zimmer- Stucky	3/28/2022 LLC Meeting Minutes

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 *FINAL* Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 28th, 2022

4:03pm - Call to Order

Zimmer-Stucky called to order the regular meeting of the EMSWCD Land Legacy Committee at 4:03pm on Monday, March 28, 2022, via videoconference.

Introductions, Review/revise agenda, Review previous action items

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

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

Absent : Mike Guebert (Zone 3 Director)

Staff: Nancy Hamilton (Executive Director), Dan Mitten (CFO), Julie DiLeone (Rural Lands Program Supervisor), Kathy Shearin (Urban Lands Program Manager), Matt Shipkey (Land Legacy Program Manager), Monica McAllister (Community Connections Liaison), Rowan Steele (Headwaters), Sasha Schwenk (Operations Administrative Assistant), Whitney Bailey (Senior Urban Conservationist), Asianna Fernandez (Executive Assistant)

Guests: Chris Wallace Caldwell (Consultant), Duane Lane (Farm Access Equity Advisory Group), Geoffrey Van (Farm Access Equity Advisory Group), Jamila Dozier (Consultant), Malcolm Hoover (Farm Access Equity Advisory Group), Megan Horst (Farm Access Equity Advisory Group)

Changes to Agenda:

- Move Project Development Pause to Agenda Item 3
- Shipkey: Collapsed Agenda items 3 & 4 into 1 item. Megan Horst to speak at a future meeting if the board would like. Her role today will be as an observer, to participate in any conversations and to share information from today’s meeting with the Farm Access Equity Advisory Group.

Previous Action items:

- Asianna to send LLC Meeting recording to all LLC members. (Completed)
- 2 presentations from LLC to be circulated to the Board after the meeting. (Completed)
- Any additional questions about agricultural management plans and easements to be sent to Shipkey. (n/a)
- Masterson to send minutes comments to Hamilton from November ’21 meeting. (Completed)

Approval of minutes

MOTION: Carlson moved to approve the November 29, 2021, LLC Meeting minutes. Masterson 2nd. Motion passed unanimously (4-0 Guebert absent).

MOTION: Carlson moved to approve the January 31, 2021, LLC meeting minutes. Masterson 2nd. Motion passed unanimously (4-0 Guebert absent).

4:11pm - Time reserved for public comment

n/a

4:12pm – Project Development Pause

Shipkey Land Legacy Program (LLP) assuming modest reduction in new transactions for the coming fiscal year, with the LLP being reactive rather than proactive due to the following considerations:

Working on closing out a few existing complicated transactions including:

- Mainstem



- Visioning and possible implementation at the Gordon Creek Farm with the Farm Access Equity Advisory Group
- Joint Natural Area/Access to Nature transaction with Columbia Land Trust.

Time spent managing our property interests (~30-40% of LLP Manager's time).

Loss of capacity with Brown on Leave.

Time devoted to strategic planning, and the decisions that need to be made about how to support LLP emphasis.

LLP will not put a hard stop on considering any new transactions, this is a soft pause that would not preclude reacting to important land protection opportunities.

Masterson It's good to evaluate the programs and check in about ability to effectively finish tasks. Appreciates Shipkey's hard work and focus on Land Legacy. We shouldn't be putting this program on hold any more than the other programs during Strategic Planning. **Shipkey** we're in a reactive instead of proactive position at the moment.

Zimmer-Stucky With Brown's leave, it's important to think of time restrictions. LLP has been proactive with recent Corbett Springdale transaction and Gordon Creek Farm visioning - not all our work is reactive. Supportive of LLP making decisions on where they choose to be proactive while going through Strategic Planning.

Rossi A cautious approach on where to spend money is good, especially with changes in directions or priorities from Strategic Planning being possible.

4:24 pm – Farm Access Equity Advisory Group

Zimmer-Stucky Thanks to the advisory members for joining and sharing their stories at today's meeting.

Caldwell To prepare for this presentation, Caldwell and Dozier met with each presenter to ensure discussions are engaging and flow in an understandable way. Keep in mind, from the last SPT Workshop, the foundational language around why does the District exist? And all aspects of what the District does should be considered. The District's 6 strategic goals should also be kept in mind while listening to these stories, thinking about how are we addressing complex problems in multiple ways?

Dozier introduced first presenter, Duane Lane. The learnings from Duane's presentation follow:

(4:30pm) Lane Duane's relationship to the land and agriculture is deeply informed by his being a Yakama Tribal Descendant (including being a direct descendant of Chief Owhi who signed the treaty of 1855) and the rich history of his people in caring for the land in sustainable ways (which many folks are trying to replicate today), the dispossession, disconnection and cultural loss he and his family faced from land theft, relocation and tribal school programming, and the successful cooperative farming enterprises of his grandfather. Outdoor School in grade school reconnected Duane to what he had been missing and started him down a path of helping other Indigenous farmers via education, training and business mentorship. This work also motivated him to start his own farm enterprise – 1855 Plants (commemorates the Treaty date and when Indigenous land loss really began to accelerate). The assistance EMSWCD's Headwaters Incubator Program provided to his farm enterprise and the struggles he sees with the folks he works with has really underscored for him the importance of strategies that address farm access availability and affordability of farmland. These efforts could work hand in hand with advancing the more sustainable and historic ways of caring for the land which are so central to the EMSWCD mission.

Dozier shared the discussion question: How does supporting Indigenous knowledge and practice with native plants and first foods help the District address multiple goals? For example, broader issues of local resiliency, soil and water health, and better climate resiliency?

Zimmer-Stucky Focusing on the core of soil health and water conservation going back to native plants and getting ecosystems restored. Having an abundance of native plant ecosystems is how we help achieve our key goals of soil health and water conservation. Do you (Lane) have any more information about your students, have they secured land? Have they left the county/state? **Lane** Some interns have landed at OR Food Bank and others at Sauvie Island in collaboration with Black Food Sovereignty Co-op. They have struggles with finding long term leases, some are subleasing small plots of private lands but without proper infrastructure and legally binding agreements. Many are not used to contracts, and banking/bookkeeping is challenging as that is very different from Indigenous cultural practices of sharing and cooperation.



Caldwell introduced Geoffrey Van. Thought a lot about the future of farming and next generation of farmers after meeting Van last week. The learnings from Geoffrey's presentation follow:

(4:55pm) Van Shared 2 stories about connections to agriculture – 1) via his work with Rogue Farm Corps. to support beginning farmers and 2) his personal experiences with a farm enterprise. Geoffrey shared how long-standing perceptions of what a farmer is / isn't created significant challenges for himself and his colleagues. As a beginning farmer, access to land was a real challenge – not because of a lack of financial capital – but because real estate brokers and others didn't take them seriously and didn't provide meaningful support in identifying/acquiring farm properties. When he and his colleagues did start up their farm business, the local farming community engaged little and provided little support because they didn't fit the "typical" demographic profile of a farmer.

Caldwell shared the Reflection Question: When you think of the idea of a farmer, what comes to mind? How can that idea of what many people think a farmer should look like influence access and opportunities and the future of farming? Consider how the challenges farmers of certain demographics face compounds with all of the other challenges all farmers face?

Zimmer-Stucky Can board members share what it would feel like if you could not view your neighbors as a resource for you? How would that affect your farming experience?

Masterson It's frustrating and challenging to hear about Van's experience and hopes that the Board and EMSWCD can help make farming feel more welcoming for more people. Speaking from the heart, being a woman in farming, especially 20 years ago, and coming into the community, and having employees who also didn't look like the general idea of a farmer, she also faced / is aware of some of the challenges Van faced. No immediate solutions come to mind. New and different people bring new and different ideas, and we need that energy in agriculture, especially in combatting climate change and changing the business environment.

Caldwell thanked Masterson for connecting Van's stories to her own experience rather than going straight to trying to find a solution.

Van Though we don't need to solve everything right now, the only solution he sees any possibility in is continuing to bring people who fall outside of mainstream identities into rural farming. This does come with risks, bodily harm and emotional trauma. Geoffrey shared a hopeful story of how one of his former farmer colleagues who was outside the mainstream made a connection and secured support from a community member that was initially very unwelcoming – that wouldn't have happened without their presence in the community.

Caldwell Goes to show how critical it is to have support around, especially within the immediate community of neighbors around you, and how said community can transform stereotypes people may have.

Dozier introduced the next speaker, Malcolm Hoover. The learnings from Malcolm's presentation follow:

(5:18pm) Hoover from Black Futures Farm spoke with enthusiasm and excitement for the projects and momentum he sees to address farmland access inequity here in Portland metro area. That work will only be successful if we take bold and decisive moves, lean into partnerships (including with public partners on their landholdings), and we are in this for the long haul. We must address the injustice of such situations such as the original Indigenous stewards of the land struggling to find access to that very land.

Dozier What are the opportunity costs of not removing barriers to land and capital? If our focus is solely on protecting the land, will there be people to farm that land?

Carlson Has been reflecting on what was shared and going back to the question what do you view as a farmer, he grew up knowing farmers of Japanese, Korean, and Syrian decent. Doesn't see any one kind of person fitting the mold of what a farmer should look like. Instead, we're all people doing the same kind of profession. If we can't look past what's the norm, then we're missing opportunities. Going back to this question, if we're not open to all people farming the land, there may not be a future for agriculture. We have to be open, embrace, and help support farmers of all backgrounds to continue in the farming profession.

Caldwell likes how Carlson tied those two questions together. We need to recognize that through our work, this may be easy for us to see, but for those who do not recognize this issue, what is our responsibility in changing this?

Zimmer-Stucky Thinking about the mainstream conservation movement, as Lane showed us, people have tended to the land, and the idea that wilderness or protected areas have been absent of people leads to problems where people without that indigenous knowledge promote an idea of conservation that assumes that removing people or restricting access is the best path forward.



Caldwell That seems to be the stereotype we have about conservation. Integrated stewardship benefits the land more than leaving it alone, and Indigenous/ traditional practices are proof of this.

Masterson The work we do has always been about supporting access to land for farmers and addressing affordability. We need to start with land protection, but via strategic planning and listening to these stories, how do we do more farmer access / affordability work?

Caldwell We need to be bold in making things right, the dial is not moving in terms of improving farmland access outcomes.

Horst It's hard to compare today's collection of data to previous collection of data because it was collected in different ways, and with different criteria. But broadly speaking, racial inequities with farmland ownership are worse today than they were 100 years ago. Some modest policy changes made in recent years aren't enough to move the needle on centuries of structural policies and personal interactions. USDA doesn't provide state specific data, but one might reasonably assume that Oregon's farm access inequities are worse than nationwide, given OR's history and current demographics.

Hoover To explain in more plain language, America's foundation was set up to be specifically white supremacist and to privilege white people, which is supported by every piece of legislation. Specifically, Oregon's was set up to be a White utopia where Native people were deeply marginalized, and Black people were systematically excluded by law. Without continual and intentional examination and disruption, that system continues to run in the background. We, as a society, will sometimes decide we need change, then change only one thing, and then that one thing gets eroded, revealing the foundational system that is continuing to operate in the background which makes people think that's just the way it should be. It will be uncomfortable as we pursue a consistent and conscious examination, interruption, and disruption of that system. We have a responsibility to do better.

Caldwell To what extent is everyone's survival and wellbeing bound up in making this right? If we aren't headed towards local resilience and nurturing farmers, then where are we going to be when we start losing that disconnect to land?

Horst Access to land is only one part of the story. For all three of the speakers, that is only one of the struggles they face, despite being a key struggle. Simply setting people up with land is setting them up to failure, without offering the continuous support to be successful in their business in all levels of the food system. There are many layers of challenges (transforming markets, offering needed technical and business planning assistance, supporting new ways of being on land), not just land access.

Rossi What Megan said really resonates with him. Cooperative approach is important. Land acquisition is a low determinant in whether you can be successful in farming. Believes there is over time a natural attrition of farming enterprises due to consolidation from working towards more sustainable business operations. Farming in Multnomah County is difficult because acreages are small and not economically efficient. On Van's comments on new farmers not being taken seriously, he sees that across all races and other demographics, locals give all new farmers a hard time and don't take them seriously if they stumble over their ideas. The most successful farmers were Japanese farmers, historically, but they moved on to better opportunities.

Caldwell posted a question in chat: As we become aware of systemic and cultural barriers, what are our responsibilities as a District? What could be our responsibility? What could be possible?

Zimmer-Stucky We do have an ability to unlock a small piece of the puzzle, for example with the Headwaters farm where we provide access to the equipment and infrastructure that Horst mentioned that are vital to being a successful farmer. In thinking about Japanese farmers being some of the more successful ones in our region, it's important to remember that much of their land was taken from them during internment in our county and across the state in WWII. In losing many successful farmers due to that history, it's worth thinking about the opportunities that could come from providing access to land for those who were a part of that history and lost their land.

Masterson Wants to get to some solutions, wishes we had more resources to give to this. Would love to see more successful folks in farming. Not sure what to say regarding how the District gets to that. Excited nonetheless to stay engaged in this conversation and with the efforts around the Gordon Creek Farm. Wants to know more about the timeline for Gordon Creek Farm.

Caldwell Are there things the District can be doing, whether it's happened yet or not?

Zimmer-Stucky and Mike have talked about a farming tool library before, in addition to addressing land access issues. Nothing like sharing equipment with your neighbor, saving money.

1/31/2022



Hoover More communal learning opportunities. Not everyone wants to or can come out to Headwaters. Having someone on hand who has a high level of expertise that can come out and provide information to farmers where they are would be helpful in saving time and stress, and in sharing knowledge. Show what works for a professional farming operation and the learner takes what they need.

Masterson That sounds like something we can do. Workshops and webinars are something the District has historically done, knows how to do, and can quickly move into.

Hoover Also suggests hosting farmers at each other's farms (using Rossi's farm as example) to spread ideas and spread knowledge. Working and learning together can also help people overcome prejudices and build community.

Caldwell This is an example of addressing multiple problems and draws back to Van's mention of needing to build community and increasing everyone's sense of humanity. Some of the best ideas are often addressing multiple issues or multiple parts of the District's mission.

Masterson Headwaters was started as a solution to the gap between working on someone else's farm and being able to start your own farm. We saw so many options for people to work on farms as internships, apprenticeships, and jobs before going through owning your own. Hopes to approach strategic planning in the same way, where are the gaps, how do we help? With skill development? Other areas? Where are the new challenges agriculture is facing/ What are the long-standing challenges we still need to address?

Caldwell Farm Access Advisory Group is doing that work of figuring out where the gaps are and what we can do to fill those gaps. Encourages the Board to look at how do we all work together instead of sitting back and waiting for the advisory group to give you recommendations? How do we engage in more conversational solutions instead, in ways that are serving the people of the district while also protecting soil and water? How can we be bold in advancing our mission and serving our constituency?

6:09pm – Land Legacy Program Strategic Planning Discussion

Caldwell What's next for the Gordon Creek Farm property (in response to Laura's question)?

Shipkey We are remaining mindful of keeping the advisory group and the Board in close communication so there are no surprises along the way. Two subcommittees of the Advisory Group spoke last week for the first time about possible visions for the property, so we are very early in that process. We will be thinking about what makes sense in terms of an interim update to the board and opportunities for input along the way. The May LLC meeting may be such an opportunity.

6:11pm - Closing items: announcements, reminders, and action items

No action items or announcements.

Zimmer-Stucky Thanks to the Farm Access Equity Advisory members and everyone for participation.

6:13pm - Adjournment

Zimmer-Stucky adjourned the meeting at 6:13pm.