

Approved

**Union Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Board MEETING MINUTES**

July 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM

**OSU Extension Office Conference Room
10507 N McAlister Rd, La Grande, OR 97850**

Remote access was available by GoToMeeting and by phone

Directors

Jarod Teeter, Chair
Paul Boehne, Vice-Chair
Fred Wallender
Curt Ricker

Staff

Jim Webster
Aaron Bliesner
Anna Lindquist
Renée Coxen

Partners and Visitors

Jake Seavert, County Commissioner
Justin Faulhaber, FSA
John Coote (online)
Donna Beverage (online)
Unknown attendees online

I. Call to Order

- A. Introductions:** Chairman Teeter called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. All attendees in the room introduced themselves.
- B. Agenda review:** Chairman Teeter asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Director Boehne to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Director Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Forum and Announcements

- A. No comments were made.

III. Administrative

- A. June 11, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes review:** Director Wallender made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Director Boehne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. May 2025 Financial Statements Review:** Director Ricker made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Director Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Agency Reports

FSA - Justin Faulhaber: Spring acreage reporting deadline is July 15. CREP offers from the first round were all excepted. The deadline for applying for County Committee is August 1. A disaster program to cover 2023-2024 crop years is being announced officially July 10, 2025. Union County is at D2 level for drought currently. Emergency CRP grazing will be enacted during Emergency drought.

Union County Commissioner – Jake Seavert: The Blue Mtn Forest Plan revision public meetings are starting in July, and the draft plan is expected to be available soon.

V. Staff Reports, Project Updates

- A. Renée Coxen:** Renée provided an update on the changes to the OWEB Small Grant program.

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- B. Aaron Bliesner:** Aaron provided project updates for the Willow Creek Royes Dam Fish Passage project, the draft 80% design was accepted by all landowners involved and is moving forward. The Buffalo Flats Little Creek final design package was received and is moving forward with City of Union review. The Elmer Dam project is on track for being completed in February 2026. A maintenance update was provided on LC5 and LC6. Scoping has started for LC2, LC3, and LC4.
- C. Anna Lindquist:** Anna provided an update on CREP. The OWEB CREP Tech TA solicitation is open and proposals are due July 17, 2025. A mock evacuation drill occurred for the Morgan Lake Firewise Community. Smaller group meetings are scheduled for neighborhood groups interested in learning about Firewise.
- D. Jim Webster:** Jim provided partner updates including the GRMW, Atlas IT Group, and the Place-based Planning group. Jim is working on the next round for indirect cost rate and provided updates on active grant opportunities and agreements.

IV. Old Business

A. 2025 Crops and Conservation Tour

The Tour was very well organized and well attended. Anna set up a Union SWCD booth and Peter provided a talk about infiltration and soil health.

B. Final Designs - Little Cr Restoration Project

Aaron gave a presentation on the project's status to date.

V. New Business

A. Annual Audit Confirmation

The FY25 annual audit is being scheduled for September 2025. An engagement agreement was presented to the Board from Connected Professional Accounts, LLC. Director Boehne motioned to sign the engagement agreement from CPA, LLC to complete a single audit this year. Director Ricker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Storage space and parking lease

Union County Weed Program is willing to lease approximately 50 square feet of space for storage in the shop on the west side of McAlister Road and provide parking for the new ATV trailer. The lease is for \$1.00 per square foot of shop space. Director Bohne motioned to sign the lease agreement. Director Ricker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Director Wallender made a motion to end the Board Meeting, and Director Boehne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 12:00PM at OSU Extension Conference Room.