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Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Regular April Board Meeting

Minutes

May 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM

OSU Extension Office Conference Room

10507 N McAlister Rd, Island City, OR 97850

Remote access was available by TEAMS

Directors	Staff	Partners and Visitors
Jarod Teeter, Chair	Jim Webster	Justin Faulhaber, FSA
Paul Boehne, Vice-Chair	Aaron Bliesner	
Curt Ricker, Treasurer		
Fred Wallender		
Travis Hampton		

I. Call to Order

- A. Introductions:** Chairman Teeter called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. All attendees 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 Hampton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Forum and Announcements: Jim stated that the Annual Crops and Conservation Tour is scheduled for June 17th and will start at the Nutrien Shop on Booth Lane. Jim presented copies of the winter/spring edition of the Ripples newsletter with an article about the Elmer Dam Fish Passage project.

III. Administrative

- A. April 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes Review:** Director Ricker made a motion to approve the meeting as presented. Director Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. March 2026 Financial Statements Review:** Director Ricker made a motion to approve the March 2026 financial statements as presented. Director Hampton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Agency Reports

- A. FSA-Justin Faulhaber:** The CRP Grasslands sign-up closes May 29th. This is a 10-15 year contract and a forage plan is needed. The crop reporting deadline is July 15th.
- B. No other partner reports**

V. Staff Reports, Project Updates

- A. Renée Coxen:** Renée was on an excused absence.
- B. Aaron Bliesner:** Aaron provided project updates. A punch list was developed for this phase of the Elmer Dam project with the contractor, engineer, and SWCD and is mostly complete for the spring. The engineering firm is completing additional modeling for the Willow Creek Royce Dam Fish Passage project in response to comments from the ODFW on the final 80% design. A 15% design is expected next week for the Little Creek fish passage improvements on LC2. The SWCD will be meeting with the landowner on LC4 to discuss concepts. The SWCD is working with the BPA engineer to develop conceptual designs for the Prescott Ditch diversion. The SWCD will be meeting with the Prescott Ditch group and ODFW next week to discuss concepts. The Gerber Culvert project, located north of Elgin, OR is being evaluated for culvert installations to address erosion and water quality concerns.
- C. Jim Webster:** Jim provided partner updates including the Atlas IT Group, GRMW Board, Place-Based Planning Group and hydraulic modeling subgroup, and the Soil Health Hub. Two Board member positions, Teeter and Wallender, are up for reelection in 2026 and Jim explained a change in the filing dates. Active grant agreements were explained. SIA water quality monitoring started in April and will go through the year.

VI. Old Business

- A. Firewise Community and Restoration Coordinator position –** Interviews were completed in April and the committee selected Heather Murphy for the position. Heather will begin on May 18, 2026.

VII. New Business

- A. 2026 Director Elections –** Two positions are up for election this year and include the Zone 1 Director and Zone 2 Director. Candidate packets were provided to Directors Teeter and Wallender. The filing process for 2026 has changed and requires incumbent district candidates to file documents between July 16th and August 18th, while new candidates must file between July 16th and August 25th.
- B. 2026 Crop & Conservation Tour sponsorship –** The announcement letter is out for sponsorship of this year's tour. The Directors discussed the level of

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sponsorship and Director Wallender made a motion to be a Platinum Sponsor for \$500. Director Boehne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with all five directors voting yes.

Director Wallender made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting and Director Hampton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 7:00PM, OSU Extension Conference Room.