

Approved

**Union Soil & Water Conservation District
MEETING MINUTES
Oct 9, 2024, 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 Present:

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

Staff:

Jim Webster
Renée Coxen
Anna Lindquist

Others:

Ana Gordon (NRCS)
Jake Seavert (Candidate for County
Commissioner)
Donna Beverage (County Commissioner)
Celeste Tate (City of Union)
Maureen Mack (Union citizen)

I. Call to Order – Chairman Teeter called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

- A. Introductions:** 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 Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Administrative

- A. September 18, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes review:** Director Boehne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Director Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Financial Statements Review** – No statements were available this month.

III. Agency Reports

- A. NRCS-Ana Gordon:** No new updates since last meeting- Closing out FY24 and working on FY25; applications that weren't accepted will be deferred.
- B. No other agencies were present.**

IV. Staff Reports, Project Updates

- A. Anna Lindquist:** Anna described the work she's been doing, participated in wildfire risk assessment for the Mt. Emily community to become Firewise; reviewed upcoming events.
- B. Renée Coxen:** Renée provided an update on the project funding proposals she's preparing and continues to provide Project Management support to Aaron on the LC5/6 projects.
- C. Aaron Bliesner (Aaron was not in attendance):** Jim provided updates on District projects including the Royes Dam Fish Passage project; the Buffalo Flats project, including mussel salvage; start date for the Elmer Dam project is expected to be mid-Oct and LC 5/6 Fish Passage construction updates.

Approved

D. Jim Webster: Jim provided partner updates including the Atlas IT, the GRMW, and the OACD Natural and Working Lands Group. The SIA was extended for 1 more year. The District website transition to a new company used by the OACD. The annual audit was completed last week at the District. The OWRD TRT started review of the Water Project Grants and Loans proposals today, that includes the Districts Elmer Dam proposal. Final rankings are tomorrow with the Commission to decide December 12/13.

V. Old Business

A. Farmers Merchant Banquet – November 5th at 5:30pm.

VI. New Business

A. OACD Board Election-There are two positions open. Director Wallender made a motion to vote for the incumbents and Director Boehne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Forum and Announcements:

A. Donna Beverage expressed concerns about the Buffalo Flats Little Creek Project.

B. Celeste Tate apologized if it wasn't clear that Jim and Aaron were invited to the Buffalo Flats public meeting held in Union on October 1, 2024. Celeste stated she did invite Jim and Aaron and that they were the only ones she specifically reached out to contact.

Director Wallender made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Director Ricker seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Board meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

The next regular Board meeting will take place Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 7:00PM at OSU Extension Conference Room

Submitted By: Jim Webster, District Manager, USWCD