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**Union Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Board MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 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 Present:

Jarod Teeter, Chair
Curt Ricker, Treasurer
Fred Wallender

Staff:

Jim Webster
Anna Lindquist
Aaron Bliesner

Others:

Justin Faulhaber, FSA
Ana Gordon, NRCS
Shiloh Simrell, ODA
Jake Seavert, County Commissioner

I. Call to Order

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

II. Administrative

- A. February 12, 2025, Annual and Regular Meeting minutes review:** Director Ricker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Director Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. January 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.

III. Agency Reports

- A. NRCS - Ana Gordon:** NRCS was told one month ago that IRA contracts could be paid, but actual payments are still on hold. For regular Farm Bill funds there is approximately \$800,000 EQIP approved for four forestry projects consisting of two water developments and two for irrigation. There are also a couple CSP contracts in the works. There have been no employee cuts in the La Grande office.
- B. FSA - Justin Faulhaber:** Still working on PLC enrollment and are about halfway through. Acreage reporting is due by July 15, 2025, for crops. There is no news on CRP or CREP enrollments and still no authorization to take sign-ups. Economic relief for farmers was approved through Farm Bill but sign-ups have not been announced yet. The deadline is March 21, 2025.
- C. ODA - Shiloh Simrell:** The current round of SIA restoration grants closes on March 20, 2025. There will probably be another round after the new budget comes out in July. There is a biennial Local Advisory Committee meeting this year to complete a full review of the Ag Water Quality Management Plan and update it. There are 2 open positions on the LAC so contact Shiloh or Jim if interested.

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D. No other agencies were present.

IV. Staff Reports, Project Updates

- A. Anna Lindquist:** Anna continues with existing CREP contract monitoring until enrollment reopens. Anna continues to work with partners to develop several Firewise communities, and the new statewide fire map is now available.
- B. Renée Coxen:** Renée had an excused absence.
- C. Aaron Bliesner:** Aaron provided updates on District projects including the final work on Little Creek Fish Passage at LC5 and LC6, the Buffalo Flats Little Creek Restoration design, Elmer Dam Fish Passage project, and the Willow Creek Royes Dam Fish Passage Project.
- D. Jim Webster:** Jim provided partner updates including the GRMW, Atlas IT Group, and the Place-based Planning group. Jim is beginning the next process for negotiating the indirect rate. Jim provided updates for each active grant agreement.

V. Old Business

- A.** No old business.

VI. New Business

- A.** Updated Union SWCD Project Summary. Jim provided a summary table showing the projects and grants being managed and completed by the district for 2025. Jim provided an explanation of how the grants applied to each project and the status of project funding.

VII. Public Forum and Announcements:

- A.** No comments were made.

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 7:46pm.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 7:00PM at OSU Extension Conference Room.