

**Approved**

**Union Soil & Water Conservation District**

**Annual Meeting of Landowners and Regular February Board Meeting**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 11, 2026, at 12:00 PM**

**OSU Extension Office Conference Room  
10507 N McAlister Rd, Island City, OR 97850**

Remote access was available by GoToMeeting and by phone

**Directors**

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

**Staff**

Jim Webster  
Aaron Bliesner  
Renée Coxen

**Partners and Visitors**

Justin Faulhaber, FSA  
Peter Donovan, Contractor  
Jake Seavert, Union County Commissioner

**I. Annual Meeting of Landowners**

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Teeter called the Meeting to order at 12:00PM.
- B. Annual Board Meeting Draft Agenda Approval:** Chairman Teeter asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Director Boehne to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda as presented. Director Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. Treasurer's State of the District Annual Financial Summary:** Chairman Teeter asked for additions or corrections needed to the Treasurer's State of the District Annual Financial Summary. A motion was made by Director Boehne to accept the Treasurer's State of the District Annual Financial Summary as presented. Director Ricker seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.
- D. 2024-2025 Draft Annual Report:** The Draft 2024-2025 Annual Report prepared by the SWCD District staff was presented to the Board. A copy of the Annual Report will be emailed to the Directors for review and feedback. Comments are due to Jim by Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

**Director Wallender made a motion to adjourn the Annual Board Meeting and Director Boehne seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Annual Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.**

**I. Regular Board Meeting**

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Teeter called the Annual Meeting to order at 12:06.
- B. Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves.
- C. 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 Ricker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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**II. Public Forum and Announcements:** No comments were made.

**III. Administrative**

**A. December 10, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes review:** Director Boehne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Director Ricker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**B. November 2025 and December 2025 Financial Statements Review:** Director Wallender made a motion to approve both the November and December 2025 financial statements as presented. Director Boehne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Agency Reports**

**A. FSA- Justin Faulhaber:** General CRP sign-up scheduled for March 9 -April 17, 2026. Continuous CRP sign-up starts Feb 12, 2026. County Committee election is on February 13, 2026.

**B. Union County Commissioner - Jake Seavert:** A Conservation Easement Workshop was held on January 21, 2026, by the Place-Based Planning group and had a good attendance by landowners.

**V. Staff Reports, Project Updates**

**A. Renée Coxen:** Renée provided an update on applications received for the OWEB Small Grant to date, upcoming Connect Conference and CREP status.

**B. Aaron Bliesner:** Aaron provided project updates: the Elmer Dam Project continuation of construction to be completed for the season by end of March 2026. Willow Creek Royce Dam Fish Passage project, still waiting on ODFW comments on the final 80% design, looking at 2027 for implementation. Design work for Little Creek fish passage improvements has begun on LC2, LC3 and LC4 through a funding contract with BPA. Anderson Perry & Associates is contracted for the designs, with LC2 going to full design and LC3/LC4 moving to 15% to conceptual designs.

**C. Jim Webster:** Jim provided partner updates including the GRMW, Atlas IT Group, Soil Health Group, NRCS partnership, District IT support and security. Provided updates on active grant opportunities and agreements.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. District Staff Positions:** In year 2 of a 5-yr agreement with Wallowa Resources for a Union County Firewise position. Jim proposed a staff position to be 75% Firewise coordinator and 25% restoration tech to support District efforts. A draft Job Announcement was presented to the board for review. The board members present approved of the job description and announcement. Jim will advertise the position and begin a hiring process.

**V. New Business**

**A. SWCD Budget Summary:** Jim presented an annual budget spreadsheet and explained the proposed expenses and incomes. The budget is fully balanced considering the grant incomes and indirect cost rate.

**B. Conservation Easement Workshop review:** Jim presented a short set of slides that were

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shown at the workshop held on January 21, 2026 to approximately 30 landowners. The Grande Ronde Lower Valley Modeling results were shown with scenarios of the existing condition, levees fully removed, and levees set back 500 feet for the reach of Catherine Creen from the confluence of Ladd Creek at Wilkinson Lane downstream to Rhinehart Gap. More scenarios will be developed with the intent to identify specific areas where floodplain actions may be planned in the future. Additional presentations at the workshop included a presentation by NRCS that provided an overview of available programs for easements.

- C. SIA Monitoring Overview: Peter Donovan provided a 2024-2025 overview of water quality monitoring efforts on Catherine Creek tributaries and the water quality parameters that were sampled and analyzed.

**Chairman Teeter left the meeting at 1:25, Director Boehne led the meeting from this point.**

**Director Ricker made a motion to end the Meeting and Director Wallender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM.**

**The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 12:00pm, OSU Extension Conference Room.**

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