

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from November 7th, 2024, District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, Andrew Halliday and Ben Saur
Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates
District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Cheryl Rice, and Carly Heron (NRCS)
Visitors (online): Lissa Biehn (USDA) and Nina Caldwell (ODA)

- Lissa reported orchardists need to report their acreage by January 15th, 2025. The county commissioner election ballots went out and are due by December 2nd, 2024. She reminded everyone about the ECP fire grants that are available for burned up fences in Wasco and Hood River County. Also, people have until April 4th, 2025 to sign up for the EFRP (burned up forestry and/or fruit trees);
- Nina reported about the Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM) Program at ODA. ADCM oversees maintenance of agricultural drainage channels to protect aquatic resources. Landowners who want to maintain their channels can request a user-friendly, fast and free notice from ODA that is valid for 5 years. Eligible channels include ditches and streams that have been historically maintained and could have provided drainage in the past 5 years, are dry at the time of work and are not designated essential salmonid habitat. For more information, visit the [ADCM website](#) or contact Brittany Mills at brittany.mills@oda.oregon.gov or 971-218-1409.

Consent agenda – Andrew moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of October 3rd, 2024, as written.
- To accept the October 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of October 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$292,941.42. Income of \$48,216.57 included \$24,148.50 from ODA, \$23,250.00 from the NACD urban grant, and \$818.07 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG.
- Expenses were those authorized at the October meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5524-5537 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Ascensus as follows:

Bills to be Paid		November 7, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$17,862.58
5524	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5525	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, meeting supplies	\$75.98
5526	Century Link	Office phone service	
5527	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$586.15
5528	Cheryl Rice	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$865.44
5529	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$97.69
5530	Weatherly Printing	annual report printing (invoice 240957, 240966)	\$1,049.18
5531	AFS Forestry	Fuentes Small Grant - weed spraying	\$273.44
5532	Gorge Interpreting & Translating	pesticide training flyers	\$117.20
5533	Rex Farms	King Livestock Small Grant	\$13,454.00
5534	Oregon Govt Ethics Commission	annual billing, invoice #AIE21372	\$945.68
5535	National Association of Conservation Districts	annual dues	\$50.00
5536	Watershed Professionals Network	Phase 2 Irrigation Assessment	\$2,040.00
5537	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #777200	\$34.32
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Ascensus SIMPLE IRA	Simple IRA	\$2,056.13
		Total	\$40,803.89

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Heather sent out the newest draft of the audit to the group and went over updates. Brian will need to sign the final version of the audit. The group discussed and was supportive.

Kris and Heather reported they are submitting an OWEB FIP grant tomorrow afternoon, but first Heather, Kris and Cindy (HRWG) will have a meeting with OWEB discussing application questions before grant submittal.

New Business:

n/a

Informational Reports –

Cal Dwyer (*Carly reported*) Cal has assisted clients in new applications for the 2025 EQIP. She built a tracking system in Microsoft Teams Planner for the EQIP grants. She completed two forest inventories and an initial site visit for a forestry project.

Carly reported she will be helping with the ODF forestry staff interviews tomorrow. Applications for EQIP are due November 29th, 2024. She sent out letters to several EQIP participants regarding being out of compliance with their contracts. She also assisted new EQIP applicants with their applications. She participated in the Oregon Ag Trust (OAT) RCPP meeting. In the Middle Fork Irrigation District, there is \$667,000 in Watersmart funding and in the East Fork Irrigation District, there is \$440,000 for Watersmart funding for irrigation improvement projects. NRCS is getting the word out by having open houses on November 12th and 14th at the NRCS office in Parkdale to fill out applications. The Farm Service Agency will also be at the open houses.

Cheryl reported the two days of mobile chipping went well. She collected the last water samples of the season for the PSP program. Kris onboarded her with the Hood River Valley Groundwater Well Monitoring project and they collected data at 13 groundwater wells throughout the county. She will be taking over this project. She assisted in collecting forestry inventory data on a 60-acre lot with ODF and NRCS for a forest management grant and helped the CTWS with 3 spawning surveys. She attended a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction workshop in Salem to learn about fire adapted communities and mitigation activities. She reported that the Oregon Wildfire Risk map is in draft form but will be finalized in the next week or so. When it is finalized, 100,000 properties across Oregon in the high risk and the Wildland Urban Interface (WUIs) will be receiving a certified letter from the Oregon State Fire Marshall (OSFM) regarding the fire hardening building codes.

Kris reported that the training program season has begun. This week was the Supervisory Skills and Leadership course where 22 people attended, taught by Leo Garcia. Next week is the English language Pre-license Pesticide training including exam at the Pine Grove Grange. At the beginning of December, the Spanish language Pre-license Pesticide training with WSDA will be held. The day after the exam, participants will receive Oregon specific information rules and laws. She is in talks with Providence, Skyline, and One Community Health to offer a free respirator fit test. Kris provided a legislative update: Andrea and Jan from OACD met with ODA - they do not want to house the 2 bilingual positions. Current talks are to house the positions at the OSU Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP). She is still waiting on draft bill language. Rep Helm and Owens are supportive and will champion the bill.

Heather reported she attended the annual PSP meeting (which was late this year, usually held in March). 2024's data will be available between January and March. The next biennium grant will be due in April. She worked on the OWEB FIP application. She also attended the annual OACD annual meeting and facilitated a district manager's roundtable at the meeting.

Directors' reports –

Chuck reported the HR Watershed Group's Annual Gathering is Thursday, November 14th. The Watershed Group had a volunteer planting at Neal Creek. The Native Fish Society had a cleanup at the Powerdale Station. The Powerdale Station gate will be upgraded to open and close automatically.

Andrew reported the orchard is officially shut down and they are packing away for the winter. He discussed the proposed amendments to the Ag Labor Housing and Related Facilities regarding upgrading infrastructure, bathrooms, dressing rooms, etc. Comments are due by January 1st, 2025.

Ben reported wrapping up the farm and has three more Saturday markets.

Annie reported attending a meeting on the Hood River wastewater treatment plant. Currently, there are excessive loads coming into the plant. They are looking to build a system for a better pre-treatment process.

Chal reported the orchard is wrapped up. They are pulling stumps and completing maintenance.

Brian reported that Crestline has 1/3 of the new irrigation pipe on the East Fork Irrigation District installed. Check out the East Fork Facebook page to see drone pics. He was part of the hydro tour through the National Hydro Association Convention in Portland. Forty-five people stopped by his farm and he gave a talk on irrigation projects. The East Fork fish salvage is next Wednesday, November 13th. The OWRC meeting is the first Thursday of December. He thanked everyone for running for the SWCD board.

Permits –The group reviewed a permit for a residential bridge over Indian Creek and a permit for the electronic gate at Powerdale road.

Heather asked if we could take the day after Thanksgiving as a holiday. The board approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 5th at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

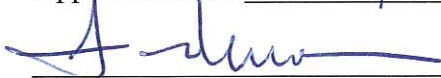
Summary of Actions Taken:

✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rice, Conservation Technician

Approved at the 12/5/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

