

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from January 4th, 2024 District Board Meeting

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Pete Siragusa, Annie Alsheimer, Andrew Holliday, and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates, Rick Larson (zoom)

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Carly Heron

Visitors- none

**Note January's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room with an online option.*

Heather shared the following information Lissa Biehn (FSA): the Food Safety Certification Cost Share program deadline is 1/30/2024; acreage reports for fruit are due 1/15/24; and ERP Track 1 and 2 are ongoing and several producers who have yet to sign up for insured crop losses in 2022.

Heather reviewed the **board positions** and their roles. Andrew moved and Ben seconded to nominate Andrew to serve as the secretary/treasurer, Pete to serve as the vice chair, and Brian to serve as board chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Annie moved and Ben seconded to nominate Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates and Richard Larson to serve as **associate board members**. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent agenda – Ben moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of December 7th, 2023, as written.
- To accept the December 2023 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of December 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$265,778.81**. Income of \$729.18 was expense reimbursement from the HRWG.
- Expenses were those authorized at the December meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5423-5429 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid		January 4, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$14,400.88
5423	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,130.29
5424	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, staff lunch, pesticide workshop supplies, Woo commerce, eventbrite	\$724.80
5425	Century Link	Office phone service	\$219.57
5426	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$48.51
5427	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$59.62
5428	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice # 869419	\$33.36
5429	SDIS	2024 liability insurance	\$1,424.00
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$73.67
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,310.36
		Total	\$19,498.50

Heather set January 2nd, 2025, as the Annual Meeting. Andrew moved; Pete seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Heather presented the 2024 schedule of Board Meetings. Ben moved; Andrew seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Heather presented a **slide show** of the work accomplished in the last fiscal year. She presented slides on the budget, OWEB small grants, the PSP program, pesticide education workshops, groundwater monitoring, NRCS updates, riparian planting program, weed work, plant sale and the mobile chipping program. She thanked the board and associates for serving and helping the district.

Heather reported that the annual audit had been completed and was ready to be accepted by the board, as is. Pete moved; Annie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Heather presented a cost-of-living payroll increase for employees based on the West Coast CPI at a rate of 3% for the year. After discussing, the board supported a 4% cost-of-living payroll increase for employees. Annie moved; Ben seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that she has been busy with EQIP applications. She also reported that there will be an EQIP working group meeting on January 29. She has been conducting site visits and completion inspections, and the air quality program may be phasing out.

Kris reported that she has been busy preparing for the WPS/ Handler training on January 18th and 19th as well as with the exam preparation course efforts in February. She also was invited to present about the SWCD efforts to make the Oregon Spanish Pesticide Applicator licenses more accessible at a conference in Washington DC in March.

Heather attended the Gorge Grown meeting and reported that the Oregon Agricultural Trust is still interested in doing easements within the county. She reported that she worked closely with Brittany on three OWEB small grants that will be submitted in the coming months. She will attend a tour through the upper valley with Cramer Fish Sciences this month.

Brittany reported that she has been busy preparing for the plant sale. She has been preparing marketing materials and updating the website for the sale that opened January 2. She also reported that she is preparing three OWEB small grants that will be submitted in the coming months.

Directors' reports –

Chal has been busy enjoying the holidays with family.

Annie reported being busy and working on fish passage and storm water projects that are getting to their final stages. She reported that she has stepped into a leadership role at work and may be spending additional time in Portland.

Chuck has been busy enjoying the holidays. He reported that he performed trail work on the Indian Creek trail.

Ben has been busy spending time with family and catching up on administrative work. He also reported that he is working with NRCS to install a hedge row and raptor boxes.

Pete reported that the Kinglsey reservoir is filling in nicely and plantings have been done at the wetland site. He also spent time with Brian at US Bank to become a signer on the account. He reported that FID is currently working on screen update permitting.

Brian reported working on a few projects. EFID has continued work on their pipelines and eastside drainage work. He has been busy with pruning on the farm.

Permits –There were no permits of note.

In accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(i), the board moved into executive session to conduct staff performance reviews.

The next meeting will be on Thursday February 1st at 4 p.m. held at the OSU extension office conference room.

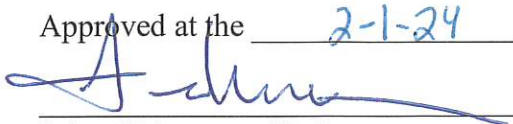
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to nominate Andrew to serve as the secretary/treasurer, Pete to serve as the vice chair, and Brian to serve as board chair.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to nominate Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates, and Richard Larson to serve as associate board members.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to set the next Annual Meeting for January 2nd, 2025.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved the 2024 schedule of Board Meetings.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to accept the annual audit.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to implement a 4% cost-of-living payroll increase for employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Welsh, Conservation Technician

Approved at the 2-1-24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from February 1st, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Pete Siragusa, Annie Alsheimer, Andrew Halliday, and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Carly Heron

Visitors- none

**Note February's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room with an online option.*

Consent agenda – Pete moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of January 4th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the January 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of January 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$282,480.55**. Income of \$37,782.25 included \$753.01 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG, \$8,250.00 from the NACD TA grant, \$2,888.52 from workshop fees, \$8,779.39 from the plant sale, \$7,064.65 from CTWS contracted services, and \$10,046.68 from OWEB for the Pesticide Management grant.
- Expenses were those authorized at the January meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5430-5442 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid

February 1, 2024

Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,042.54
5430	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,130.29
5431	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Staples (bus card stock)	\$300.47
5432	Century Link	Office phone service	\$217.52
5433	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$1,861.34
5434	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$634.29
5435	Ray Sato Orchards	refunded WPS registration fee	\$130.00
5436	Columbia Gorge News	annual mtg legal notice	\$68.00
5437	Washington Department of Ag	pest license exam fees for 40 class participants	\$2,800.00
5438	Hood River Watershed Group	NRCS pollinator CIG expenses	\$2,181.77
5439	Farmers Irrigation District	NRCS pollinator CIG expenses	\$339.00
5440	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice # 957085	\$50.79
5441	Oregon Govt Ethics Commission	annual fee	\$945.68
5442	Lake Taco	food for pest exam prep class Feb 6-8	\$3,967.50
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$73.67
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,328.61
		Total	\$31,144.91

Old Business:

Kris reported that the HRSWCD has a Contract with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to be a pilot testing center to administer the Private Pesticide Applicators License exam. It will be effective for two years and will allow the SWCD to administer and proctor the exam.

Heather reported that she wrote a new job description for Kris, with input from the staff and board, for a Program Manager with duties and a salary range. She is in the process of writing job descriptions and salary ranges for the three positions at the SWCD. She recommends that the group adopt the job description and move Kris into the Program Manager position with the new salary. Andrew moved and Annie seconded approving the Program Manager job description and Kris taking on the new role. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Heather reported that she reached out to two auditors to work with the district on their annual audit or review. She received estimated costs for both reviews and full audits and both came in lower than the district's former audit costs. One company is in John Day and the other is in Bend. The group suggested getting some references and following up with them. Heather will do this and report back to the group.

Heather reported that the district will need to update the long range plan and now is a good time to do so with a new job position, the separation from the Watershed Group, and new scopes of work and funding sources. She reported that Underwood Conservation District utilized a contractor to help with their long range planning. Kris, being on the board of UCD, described what the UCD process entailed. Kris and Heather will set up an informational meeting with the contractor and put together a proposed timeline and process. The group was supportive.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that Josh's last day will be in mid-January. There is already some local interest to fill the position. She has continued to be busy with EQIP applications. She also reported that the Local Working Group meeting was well attended and was productive.

Kris reported that she has been busy preparing for the exam preparation course in February. She also was invited to present about the SWCD efforts to make the Oregon Spanish Pesticide Applicator licenses more accessible at a conference in Washington DC in March. The FIP technical review will happen at the end of February and interviews will be in mid march. She has continued to participate in the OWEB Rules Advisory Committee meeting and assisted with plant sale.

Heather attended an OACD round table with District Managers. She attended the Oregon Agricultural Trust's succession planning workshop, composed a letter in response to the OWEB proposed rule changes to the small grant program, and worked with the contractor for the watershed monitoring plan to include the SWCD's scope of work.

Directors' reports –

Pete reported that Les will be leaving the FID District Manager role and will take a new job. They will be working to fill the position as soon as they can. He also reported that the Kinglsey reservoir is filling in nicely and plantings have been done at the wetland site.

Annie reported being busy and working on fish passage and storm water projects that are getting to their final stages.

Chal has been busy with winter on-farm operations.

Chuck complimented Kris on her work and reported a good presentation from the EFID District Manager at the HRWG meeting.

Ben has been busy with winter work.

Brian reported EFID has continued work on their pipelines and eastside drainage work. The county has signed off on the culvert and drainage work. He has also been busy with pruning.

Permits –Heather reported that there was a permit extension for the expansion of the Duckwall cold storage building and the wetland fill and mitigation work to take place along Lenz creek.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 7th at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

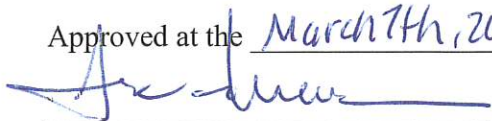
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to accept the Project Manager position description and salary range.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Project Manager

Approved at the March 7th, 2024 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

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

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, Andrew Halliday, and Ben Saur (zoom)

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Brittany Welsh

Visitors- Nina Caldwell with ODA (zoom)

**Note March's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room with an online option.*

Consent agenda – Andrew moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of February 1st, 2024, as written.
- To accept the February 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of February 29th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$288,528.43**. Income of \$49,966.92 included \$732.19 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG, \$24,148.50 from the ODA District Support, \$6,456.01 from workshop fees, \$1,360.76 from the tree/plant sale, and \$17,269.46 from the NRCS Pollinator CIG Project.
- Expenses were those authorized at the February meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5443-5451 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid

March 7, 2024

Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,398.49
5443	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,130.29
5444	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Microsoft 365, Grange deposit, Metro Institute (exam reg), ISEP reg.	\$3,005.98
5445	Century Link	Office phone service	\$200.90
5446	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$3,682.46
5447	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$994.99
5448	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$45.44
5449	WSU Extension Publishing	Pest exam prep manual Spanish-shipping	\$99.97
5450	Northwest Graphic Works	sweatshirts with SWCD logo	\$662.35
5451	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #008676	\$30.53
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$26,739.51

Old Business:

Heather reported that she followed up with two auditors to work with the district on their annual audit or review, Sensiba located in Bend and Solutions CPA located in John Day. She checked references and reported good reviews for both companies. 3-year contracts were available with Sensiba and Solutions

CPA with about a five percent increase year-over-year. Sensiba is less expensive by about \$2100. The group suggested using Sensiba. Andrew moved; Annie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Heather reported that the ODF Small Forestland Grant Program was awarded. This grant gives the SWCD funding for 10 mobile wood chipping days from Spring 2024 until Spring 2025. Heather is still waiting for the grant agreement from ODF and is currently working on a draft contract with Mt Adams Resource Stewards (MARS) who will be the contractor performing this work for the district. Since the estimate for the chipping days is about \$34,000, she requested board approval to sign the draft contract with MARS as well as the ODF Grant Agreement. Annie moved; Andrews seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Heather reported that the district will need to post a new position at the SWCD. She is currently working on updating the position description and tasks, as well as the date range. The position will be responsible for managing the chipping program, OWEB Small Grants, plant sale, and other tasks. The group was supportive.

Heather gave updates on grants, funding and projects. She reported that there is about \$30,000 unallocated in the OWEB Small Grants for this biennium. She also reported that the SWCD should receive word if the district has received the ODF Western States Wildfire grant soon. Heather reported that she is currently working with partners in the county to plan a Wildfire Preparedness Night for Spanish Speakers. This event will take place on May 9th at the Rockford Grange. The group was supportive.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that she assessed and ranked all EQIP applications for FY24. She has received more funding for the Air Quality program with applications closing in mid-April. She has been busy working on the CPA-52 for forestry applications and ODF to begin job sheets for all forestry applicants. She also attended Oregon NRCS Tech transfer webinar and the OWEB Small grant team meeting.

Kris reported that she was extremely busy preparing for the exam preparation course in February. She reported that the district hosted the course and exam 2/6-2/9. Two people passed the Oregon exam (5%) 6 people passed the Washington exam (15%) - 50% of the class was within 5 questions of passing Washington. She was busy with follow up after the class that included assistance with reciprocal licensing, working with WSDA and OSU PSEP, scheduling a follow-up review and retake class 4/24 and 4/25, and traveling to Salem to discuss the next steps for the Oregon Exam with ODA and OSU PSEP. She also prepared her presentation for the American Association of Pesticide Control Officials annual conference in Washington DC. The FIP interviews will be in mid-March and there has been preparation for that. She has continued to participate in the OWEB Small Grant Rules Advisory Committee meeting and assisted with the plant sale.

Heather attended the Winter Hort meeting and Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop. She assisted Kris with the exam preparation class. She submitted OR pesticide credits for the upcoming WPS

class in April. She attended the meeting with Kris, ODA, and OSU PSEP discussing the Oregon pesticide exam. Heather hosted the Small Grant Team meeting and approved 3 new grants. She followed up on the three new grants and submitted grant agreements to OWEB. She also updated the group that the SWCD was not awarded the Western IPM grant for backyard fruit and unmanaged orchards projects. She attended the OACD board meeting and met with Carly, OSU Extension Wildfire agent Kayla, and Ubaldo with Comunidades to continue planning Spanish language wildfire preparedness workshop. She also attended a meeting and field trip with Steve Pappas and Hans Berge of Cramer Fish Sciences to discuss water conservation projects and monitoring.

Brittany attended the Invasive Species and Exotic Pests Workshop in Stevenson. She also presented about the Puncturevine Project on the Hood River Waterfront during the workshop. She has been busy managing the plant sale as well as preparing three new OWEB Small Grants. Brittany attended and presented the three grants at the OWEB Small Grant Team meeting.

Directors' reports –

Annie reported being busy with work, but projects are coming to a close. She also reported that she received a concussion and is beginning to feel a lot better.

Andrew has been busy pruning and is behind due to snow. Now that the snow has melted on-farm work can continue and he may begin spraying soon.

Chuck attended the Watershed FIP partners meetings. He reported that it was a good meeting and all important matters seem to be covered for the FIP interview in Salem. He will be attending a tour of Powerdale with Inter-fluve where various sites will be visited.

Richard has been busy participating in four different forest collaborative groups and their meetings. There are no big projects going on quite yet.

Ben has been busy wrapping up winter projects. They are beginning to germinate seeds and work their horses. They are beginning work on a pollinator project as well as hardening a paddock.

Brian complimented Kris on the Oregon Pesticide exam work. He reported EFID has continued work on their pipelines and two sub-laterals have been completed. Flow restrictors have been placed on most of the outlets. He has also been busy with pruning.

Permits –Heather reported that there was a permit submitted by BPA to update powerlines. There are no wetlands to restore so money is being put into a mitigation fund.

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

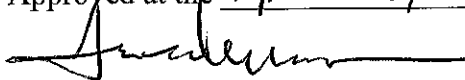
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to accept Sensiba as the SWCD's new auditor.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to have Heather sign contracts with ODF and MARS for mobile chipping.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Welsh, Conservation Technician

Approved at the April 4th, 2024 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes from April 4th, 2024 District Board Meeting

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Pete Siragusa, Annie Alsheimer (zoom), and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Brittany Welsh, Carly Heron (NRCS)

Visitors- Lissa Beihn with FSA (zoom)

**Note April's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room with an online option.*

Consent agenda – Pete moved, and Ben seconded:

- To approve the minutes of March 7th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the March 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of March 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$292,970.96**. Income of \$14,464.62 included \$2,517.02 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG and the Connect conference, \$8,250.00 from the NACD TA Grant, \$1,261.95 from workshop fees, and \$2,288.01 from the tree/plant sale.
- Expenses were those authorized at the March meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5452-5462 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid

April 4, 2024

Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,370.94
5452	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,130.29
5453	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom	\$48.99
5454	Century Link	Office phone service	\$205.59
5455	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$660.76
5456	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$381.96
5457	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$36.85
5458	Champoeg Nursery	plants for plant sale	\$5,707.25
5459	WA Association of Conservation Districts	plants for plant sale	\$1,324.85
5460	Pine Grove grange	rental fee for WPS class	\$100.00
5461	Brent Barkley	website redesign final payment	\$2,940.00
5462	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #081439	\$39.51
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$29,435.10

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Heather reported that the HRSWCD will be subcontracting with the Oregon Department of Forestry for the mobile chipping program. It outlines 10 days of chipping and the contract will go through 2025.

There is a payment limit set within the agreement. Ben moved and Pete seconded signing the intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry. The motion passed unanimously.

Heather reported that she signed a letter of engagement with the new auditor Sensiba from Bend. The letter includes terms and conditions, fee schedules, and scope of work for both parties. Heather would like to revisit the HRSWCD policies and make updates. The group was supportive.

Heather mentioned that all of the board members have seen the Conservation Technician job description and the job will get posted next week. The group was supportive.

New Business:

Heather reported that the board positions for Zone 1, held by Pete, Zone 2 held by Brian, At-Large 1 held by Andrew, and At-Large 2 held by Annie will be on the ballot in November.

Heather mentioned that ODA will have a training on Public Meeting Law if anyone is interested.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that EQIP applications have been sent out for review and signatures. She will present at the Spanish language wildfire awareness meeting on May 9th and utilize the NRCS interpretation services. She is looking to apply for another WaterSMART grant for the EFID. The Air quality smudge pot program will be ending and the focus will shift to grinding and chipping.

Kris reported that she presented at the American Association of Pesticide Control Officials annual conference in Washington DC. She is continuing to work hard on improving the administration of the Private applicators license exam and the exam itself. She attended the OWEB FIP interview in Salem with the rest of the partnership, it seemed to be well received and the partnership ranked number one for funding. She is preparing for the prelicense review class and exam retake opportunity with Leo Garcia on the 24th and 25th. Staff just finished packing for the Plant Sale and could use some help tomorrow at the sale days handing out orders. Pete agreed to help. She has been working to finalize the website and has been working on small grant completions and applications with Brittany.

Heather reported that she met with the county to discuss their temperature TMDL implementation efforts. She participated in a seed exchange event at the Rockford Grange and promoted the plant sale and mobile chipping. She also helped to facilitate the Backyard Fruit tree class at the Master Gardeners, taught by Ashley Thompson. She attended the OACD board meeting and has been working on the website. She met with Ed Salminen and the Irrigation District managers to discuss the irrigation system mapping.

Directors' reports –

Annie reported being busy with work and attended a meeting in Wenatchee on tire dust toxicity.

Pete reported that FID has a new District Manager, Alexis Vaivoda, to replace Les Perkins. She started this week. Kingsley reservoir is full and is in need of two more screens. Pete reported that pears are about 10-14 days behind cherries and reported cold damage.

Chuck attended the OWEB FIP partners interview in Salem and reported that it went well. He reported that it was interesting to see other groups present. He has continued working with Parks on the trail system and that there are community garden plots available.

Ben has been busy building a deer fence on a piece of leased land for new growing space. He got the greenhouse covered and has been busy with other farm tasks.

Chal reported being busy with on-farm operations and sprays.

Brian reported EFID has continued work on their pipelines and two sub-laterals have been completed. EFID is continuing to work on the monitoring and control systems.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 2nd at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to sign the intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager

Approved at the May 2nd, 2024 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from May 2nd, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Andrew Halliday, Annie Alsheimer, and Ben Saur (zoom)

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Carly Heron (NRCS)

Visitors- Lissa Beihn with FSA (zoom)

**Note May's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room with an online option.*

Lissa reminded the group to report loss as soon as people notice it as well as update their acreage reports. The OSU preharvest tour will be on June 7th and the Tree Assistance Program can help growers alleviate loss. The group thanked Lissa for coming.

Consent agenda – Andrew moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of April 4th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the April 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of April 30th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$274,135.24**. Income of \$11,074.33 included \$3,824.16 from workshop fees, \$732.42 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG, and \$6,517.75 from the tree/plant sale.
- Expenses were those authorized at the April meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5463-5474 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid		May 2, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,497.06
5463	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5464	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, food for WPS workshop, QB annual sub., bluehost, job posting	\$2,017.92
5465	Century Link	Office phone service	\$215.32
5466	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$2,168.04
5467	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$3,700.12
5468	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$84.46
5469	Lava Nursery	plants for plant sale	\$1,353.00
5470	Mikel Lon DeHart	small grant #14-24-003 final payment	\$4,583.00
5471	Rancho Paz LLC	small grant #14-24-004 final payment	\$13,454.00
5472	Lake Taco	food for Spanish wildfire workshop (NACD)	\$3,292.50
5473	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #168876	\$80.32
5474	The Next Step-Leo Garcia	Pest exam retake class April 24 & 25	\$4,000.00
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$53,098.05

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Heather reported that the **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Focus Investment Partnership grant** was approved and the Hood River Basin Partnership grant was allocated funding. This will provide funding for 8-10 years of bilingual pesticide and irrigation water management workshops and trainings, and funding for about 1,000 acres of on-farm irrigation upgrades. The group was supportive.

Heather reported that she received about 20 applications for the **Conservation Technician job**. She has set up interviews and invited the board to participate if they want to. Heather also reported that Brittany will stay on as long as needed or until she secures another job. The group was supportive.

Kris provided the group with an update on the status of the **Oregon Private Pesticide License Applicators Exam**. She explained that there has been no tangible progress yet on updating the Oregon Applicators exam and preparation materials. However, she is continuing to work with all of the partners and keep the issue pertinent. The group was supportive.

Heather reported that they have a lot of capacity money for finalizing the GIS irrigation status maps. Kris and the Conservation Technician will begin to dedicate some time to finalizing the mapping effort. Heather would like to sign a **phase II contract with Ed Salminen** so he can begin work with the irrigation districts to fill in the missing information. Andrew moved and Annie seconded signing a contract to finalize the irrigation system maps. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Heather provided the group a **preliminary budget** and had sent it out prior to the board meeting for review. Heather reviewed the estimated income and expenses. The income is fairly standard with OWEB small grants, garlic mustard plant sale, ODA capacity funds, the Agricultural water quality support grant and the ODF forestry funds. The budget projection does not include some projected or pending grants like the OWEB FIP projects, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs contract, the new PSP EPA funds, or the National Association of Conservation Districts. Heather will make updates as they are known and the group will review the budget and provide feedback. Heather hopes to approve the budget in June. The group was supportive.

Heather also provided the group the **budget memo**. She had sent out the narrative to the group that goes along with the budget. If there are comments please send them to Heather. The group was supportive.

Heather reported that she needs some **information for the new auditor** from board members. This is to ensure that family members are not unfairly benefiting from the District. The group will provide Heather the necessary information.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that she heard from a private company about planting and biochar technology but it did not seem practical for the topography of the Hood River Valley. She has continued to process EQIP applications and will present at the Spanish language wildfire awareness meeting on May 9th and utilize the NRCS interpretation services. She is looking to apply for another WaterSMART grant for the EFID. She attended the CONNECT conference in Sun River and there is a job offer to a Soil Conservationist to support Carly in her office.

Kris reported that she facilitated an in-person Worker Protection Standards training to make up for the one that had to be moved to a virtual platform. The plant sale went well and they will plan to scale up their sale of native wildflowers and potted plants next year. She is working to put together a grant for the next year of Pesticide trainings and workshops as well as support for unmanaged fruit tree removal and OSU biocontrol program. She presented at the CONNECT conference and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board meeting. Leo Garcia taught a 1.5 day review class for the Private Pesticide Applicators License exam and WSDA administered the exam. Five more applicators secured their license. She will follow up to assist with reciprocity.

Heather reported that she also was busy with Plant Sale, OWEB small grants, and attended the CONNECT conference. She has been working to put together the logistics and her presentation for the Spanish language Wildfire Preparedness night in collaboration with Comunidades and OSU.

Directors' reports –

Ben has been busy with on-farm operations. He has been working to get his irrigation systems up and running. Markets begin on Saturday.

Andrew has been busy with frost season, planting new orchard blocks, and irrigation upgrades.

Chal reported being busy with on-farm operations and reported light fruit set in comice.

Annie reported being busy with work and house projects.

Chuck reported that he is continuing to work with the parks department on the trail system and gardens. He referenced an article on Cascade Locks and suggested doing a community wildfire night in Cascade locks similar to the events in Parkdale.

Brian reported EFID had an irrigators lunch for the Spanish speaking irrigators in the EFID. Steve discussed district policies, upgrade options, and the flow restrictors. Brian reported that NRCS wants more in-depth review of the stormwater mitigation efforts. Brian reported on the lateral pipeline projects that will happen this fall. He also reported challenging weather for applying sprays this year.

Other business Heather reported that the July board meeting will be moved to Thursday July 11th 4pm at the OSU Conference room.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 6th at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

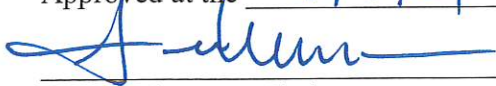
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to sign the Phase II contract for finalizing the irrigation maps.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager

Approved at the 6/6/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from June 6th, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Andrew Halliday, Pete Siragusa, and Ben Saur (zoom)

Associate Directors:

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Carly Heron (NRCS)

Visitors- none

**Note June's meeting was held in person at the OSU conference room with an online option.*

Consent agenda – Andrew moved, and Pete seconded:

- To approve the minutes of May 2nd, 2024, as written.
- To accept the May 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of May 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$283,248.69**. Income of \$62,302.89 included \$24,148.50 from ODA for quarterly support, \$634.60 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG, \$16,764.00 from OSWB for Garlic mustard abatement project, \$15,000 from OWEB for the Garcia Irrigation Improvement project, \$5,242 from OWEB for the DeHart Irrigation Improvement Project and \$313.79 from the tree/plant sale.
- Expenses were those authorized at the May meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5475-5483 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid		June 6, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$16,729.83
5475	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5476	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Rockford Grange, garlic mustard supplies	\$468.39
5477	Century Link	Office phone service	\$219.22
5478	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$119.33
5479	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$42.34
5480	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$179.57
5481	AFS Forestry	garlic mustard crew, Fuentes small grant herbicide spray	\$8,952.16
5482	Torres Orchards	Torres small grant - irrigation upgrade	\$13,454.00
5483	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #225519	\$22.26
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$42,839.41

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Heather reported that the **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Focus Investment Partnership grant** was approved and the Hood River Basin Partnership grant was allocated funding. This will

and presented at the Hood River County Board of Commissioners meeting. She also attended the OWEB FIP and monitoring grant meetings.

Directors' reports –

Ben has been busy with on-farm operations and the farmers markets have begun.

Andrew has been busy with planting and trellising new orchard blocks. He also hosted a tour with legislators and their staff.

Pete reported that the water flows in FID and Kingsley Reservoir levels are looking good. The new district manager is doing a great job. He also reported light fruit set on various varieties.

Brian reported he attended the Pear Bureau meeting reception in Skamania last week. EFID had a pre-bid meeting for this Fall's piping project. He has also finished thinning his pears.

Other business Heather reported that the July board meeting will be moved to Thursday July 11th at 4pm at the OSU Conference room.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 11th at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

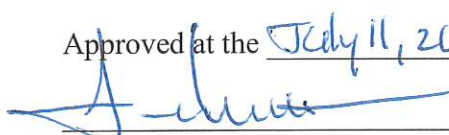
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to approve the budget for FY 2024-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager

Approved at the July 11, 2024 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from July 11th, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling

District and NRCS Staff: Kris Schaedel, Brittany Welsh, and Carly Heron (NRCS)

Visitors- Lissa Biehn- USDA (provided update on tree assistance program)

**Note June's meeting was held online over Zoom.*

Consent agenda – Annie moved, and Ben seconded:

- To approve the minutes of June 6th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the June 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of June 30th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was **\$271,844.53**. Income of \$31,379.76 included \$1,518.27 from workshop classes, \$747.55 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG, \$7,305.56 from USFS for Garlic mustard abatement project, \$15,000 from OWEB for the Torres Irrigation Improvement project, \$3,298.00 from OWEB for HR Pesticide Management.
- Expenses were those authorized at the June meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5484-5492 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid		July 11, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$15,986.57
5484	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2023 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5485	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Rockford Grange refund, Carbonite backup	\$58.16
5486	Century Link	Office phone service	\$219.11
5487	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$152.56
5488	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$115.91
5489	Mt. Adams Resource Stewards	mobile wood chipping, 6 days	\$21,000.00
5490	SAIF	Worker's Comp annual insurance	\$358.82
5491	OACD	annual dues (0.3% of revenue, minus HRWG)	\$1,589.05
5492	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #296630	\$49.48
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$42,181.97

Brian Nakamura, Board Chair

Date

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Kris presented the finalized **Annual Work Plan** required by the Oregon Department of Agriculture for each district. Kris reviewed the plan of work document with the board and the categories the HRSWCD staff divide their time between. This includes the new Conservation Technician position. The group was

supportive. Ben moved and Annie seconded to approve the annual work plan as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Kris reported that the **new hire** Cheryl Rice will start August 1st. Brittany Welsh's last day will be July 26th. The group was supportive.

New Business:

Kris reported that the EPA PSP grant for additional bilingual pesticide education and training was approved for \$73,000. She also reported that the NACD grant for about \$60,000 was recommended for funding and that would allocate an additional \$30,000 to pesticide education and training. She also presented at the conservation commission meeting to talk next steps for Spanish language pesticide education, and it went well. There are capacity issues at ODA that will need to be worked on. Kris is working with Jan Lee for potential funding and general support.

Kris updated that 98% of the OWEB Small Grant Funds have been spent, which will make the district eligible for unspent funds. These additional funds will be allocated to irrigation and/or riparian projects in the area. FIP irrigation projects are beginning to be developed as well.

Brian reported that there is an SDA Oregon training for Board Members in the Dalles on September 18th. Annie is able to attend, and Heather will register her for the training.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported that the new employee is working out well and she should be able to attend a future meeting. She reported that she worked with FSA to update records so the final EQIP applications could be obligated. She is also working on finalizing payments. She is also collaborating with the team planning a community wildfire event on July 25th.

Kris reported that she has presented on the work of the district at multiple industry events including the Soil and Water conservation commission meeting, legislative orchard tour, and OR board of agriculture public comment session. She is continuing the process of updating the testing center computers to be able to offer the Private Applicators License Exam at the OSU conference room. She has been reaching out and setting up site visits with orchardists for irrigation improvement projects to implement through the OWEB FIP grant.

Directors' reports –

Ben has been extremely busy with on-farm operations and the farmers markets are in full swing. He is staffed up for the summer, which is a big help.

Annie has been busy working on various projects. She is currently in Wenatchee working on a stormwater mitigation management project.

Brian reported that he will begin harvesting cherries soon and they are making it through the heatwave okay. He reported that the cherry market is looking good.

Permits –No permits of note.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 1st at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

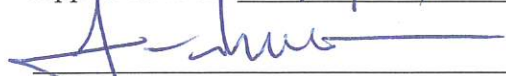
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to approve the ODA Annual Work Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Welsh, Conservation Technician

Approved at the 8/1/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from August 1st, 2024 District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, Andrew Halliday, Pete Siragusa and Ben Saur
Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling
District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Cheryl Rice, and Cal Dwyer (NRCS)
Visitors- Lissa Biehn- USDA (provided update on tree assistance program)

Consent agenda –Andrew moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of July 11th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the July 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of July 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$230,405.72. Income of \$761.11 included \$761.11 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG.
- Expenses were those authorized at the July meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5493-5501 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Vanguard as follows:

Bills to be Paid		August 1, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$16,392.68
5493	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5494	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, stamps	\$160.51
5495	Century Link	Office phone service	\$220.64
5496	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$166.43
5497	Brittany Welsh	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$79.08
5498	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$117.65
5499	Pine Grove Grange	forestry night rental fee	\$100.00
5500	PERS	Social security Administration fee	\$15.00
5501	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #362907	\$18.80
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Vanguard IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,356.21
		Total	\$19,923.10

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Heather announced that the **new hire** Cheryl Rice started today in the Conservation Technician position. Cheryl introduced herself to the group. Heather and Kris will be working to bring her up to speed over the next few weeks and are excited to have her on board. The group was supportive and welcomed Cheryl.

Heather reviewed the **budget vs actual** financial report. She explained that the original budget was done conservatively. There was an additional \$200,000 of income and expenses but the actual net income was only \$1,000 different than what was budgeted. Multiple grants were not accounted for in the budget because they had not yet been awarded during the time of budget creation. Heather reviewed and explained the income sources and the projects they funded. The group was supportive.

New Business:

Kris reported that she is working with Jan Lee and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts to meet with legislators to develop legislation that would allocate state funds to Oregon Department of Agriculture for multiple full-time positions for bilingual pesticide education and capacity to run an equitable licensing program. One of the key limiting factors in education and an equitable licensing system is capacity within the agency- and so that is something that needs to be addressed. The group was supportive.

Informational Reports –

Kris reported that she presented on SWCD activities at the OSU field day. She is updating the testing center computers and identifying the improvements needed to OSU's internet to be able to offer the Private Applicators License exam at the OSU conference room. She is developing irrigation improvement projects to implement through the OWEB FIP grant. She is also organizing several agricultural trainings.

Heather reported that the ODA Local Advisory Committee light review of the Ag Water Quality plan and rules is coming up. She met with Nina Caldwell and will suggest moving the review to March when people have time to participate. Heather reported that she is looking for new members to participate. She set up the county fair display in collaboration with FSA and the CTWS. She assisted the CTWS with fin clipping at the hatchery. She also met with Tualatin SWCD staff to discuss their upcoming fire/forestry program. She also attended a meeting with Oregon Ag Trust in the upper valley to discuss working together on an NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program application next year.

Directors' reports –

Chuck reported that the Watershed Group is doing in-water water work on Neal Creek and Baldwin Creek. The Neal Creek project includes a helicopter doing log placement. Work at Baldwin creek will get going soon. The watershed group hired a new staff member and she is out doing field work. The HRWG worked with partners to contract a group to remove abandoned camps and garbage on a Hood River island, near the railroad bridge. Chuck also did some additional clean-up along Indian Creek trail.

Pete reported that he finished cherry harvest. Kingsley reservoir is being for firefighting efforts on the Whiskey Creek fire. FID is continuing to work on finalizing their water rights with regards to storage at Kingsley Reservoir.

Ben has been busy with on-farm operations and the farmers markets.

Annie has been busy working on various projects.

Andrew reported that he finished cherry harvest and is preparing for pear harvest.

Brian reported that he finished cherry harvest and attended the OSU Field Day. EFID will upgrade the Alison Line this Fall, and they will begin on the Ohana line this upcoming year. He also reported that the water outlook was good in East Fork.

Permits –No permits of note.

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

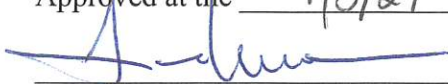
Summary of Actions Taken:

✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager

Approved at the 9/5/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from September 5th, 2024 District Board Meeting

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, Andrew Halliday, Pete Siragusa, and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling, Chal Oates

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Cheryl Rice, Carly Heron (NRCS), and Cal Dwyer (NRCS)

Visitors- Lissa Biehn- USDA (provided updates on the end of the fiscal year, statewide fire grants through ECP and EFRP, acreage reports around the corner, and the loss of Josh Thompson)

Consent agenda – Andrew moved, and Pete seconded:

- To approve the minutes of August 1st, 2024, as written.
- To accept the August 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of August 31st, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$244,863.20. Income of \$34,398.53 included \$18,652.00 from the ODA PSP grant, \$15,000 from OWEB for the McNerney Irrigation Improvement Project, and \$746.53 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG.
- Expenses were those authorized at the August meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5502-5514 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Ascensus as follows:

Bills to be Paid		September 5, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$17,677.24
5502	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5503	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, drysuit, workshop supplies	\$3,610.50
5504	Century Link	Office phone service	\$213.16
5505	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$57.63
5506	Cheryl Rice	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$267.15
5507	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$102.48
5508	Tim Woosley	OWEB small grant 14-24-008	\$13,308.00
5509	McNerney Farms Inc.	OWEB small grant 14-22-012	\$13,454.00
5510	Fir Mountain Orchards LLC	OWEB small grant 14-24-002	\$8,013.00
5511	Columbia Gorge News	legal notice for election (\$63) 2 year subscription (\$75)	\$138.00
5512	Washington Assoc. of Conservation Districts	plant deposit for plant sale	\$397.50
5513	Gorge Interpreting & Translating	pesticide workshop descriptions translations	\$191.80
5514	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #432809	\$40.45
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Ascensus SIMPLE IRA	Simple IRA	\$2,030.78
		Total	\$60,797.79

The motion passed unanimously.

Heather explained that staff wages went up due to the addition of Cheryl. If additional funds are needed, money can be transferred from the 3 CD's. The group was supportive.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

NACD Urban Agriculture Grant Agreement- since it is over \$25,000, needs Brian's signature approval. Andrew moved to approve the signing of the NACD Urban Agriculture Grant Agreement, Annie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kris met with Rep. Helm's Chief of Staff regarding legislative action for funding bilingual pesticide education positions at Oregon Department of Agriculture. It was indicated that they would like to see support for this initiative by various organizations providing their logo on a letter of intent. Kris sent out a letter of intent along with a 2 pager to various organizations requesting logos to demonstrate support. On September 13th, OACD will submit the letter. OACD is leading this effort, and Kris will continue to be the informational contact. The group was supportive.

Other Business:

Cal presented on the NRCS Civil Rights Roles and Responsibilities. This presentation was to inform the SWCD board members and district. Civil Rights come into play through Federally Assisted Programs and Federally Conducted Programs both in employment issues and program delivery. SWCDs need to focus on public postings and notices, non-discrimination (short and long versions) and equal opportunity. The group thanked Cal for her presentation.

Informational Reports –

Cal reported that she and Carly toured the Clear Branch Dam watershed project at Laurence lake. She scheduled 5 new site visits from Forest Landowner Information Night. She also completed the initial site visits for 3 new forestry landowners seeking wildfire preparedness. She assisted with 6 site visits requesting practices for forest stand improvement and herbaceous treatment. Cal started ArcGIS Pro training and made plot maps for inventories with Andy Dwyer from ODF.

Carly reported that she hosted a tour of Uintah Farms to look at how they have used EQIP funds for Air Quality, irrigation efficiency and for pollinator habitat. She hosted a conservation buffer project tour with a biologist at the WNTC. She attended a 2-day employee meeting in Redmond. She helped review and update the draft Joint Chiefs proposal that the Forest Service is moving forward with. She announced that she received a \$4 million WaterSmart Grant for East Fork Irrigation District. The entire county is now open to upgrade irrigation projects. Carly assisted in with interviewing a potential GS-11 planner for The Dalles.

Cheryl reported she received onboarding for the programs she will be working with. The Free Mobile Chipping dates were determined by MARS and HRSWCD; 15 people have been scheduled for the October 21st and 22nd dates. There will be 2 additional chipping dates in the spring to fulfill the grant. For the native plant sale, Cheryl updated and created potted plant fact sheets along with a plant sale flyer for tabling events. She scouted The Heights and downtown Hood River for community boards and placed 15 flyers up for the August puncturevine pull event at the waterfront. She also scouted the waterfront for puncturevine. Cheryl organized, prepped, and participated in the puncturevine pull event along with Kris, and 9 volunteers. She created a completion report for an OWEB small grants irrigation project, assisted in PSP sediment sampling and participated in 3 spawning surveys with CTWS. She attended the rush skeletonweed working group, OSU's The Heights Front Yard Garden Tour, Quarterly PSP, Workforce Development with Ash Creek (took minutes) and the Columbia Gorge CWMA meetings.

Kris reported that she continued to work to develop the OWEB FIP application where combined irrigation projects total ~\$375,000. There are 26 agricultural training days between November-May, so Kris is developing upcoming orchard programming and getting the classes up and running. Kris initiated a meeting with Ash Creek Forest Management and local Natural Resource Agencies. She explained the Mid-Columbia Region has no work crews and crews must be brought in from the Portland Metro Area to work on natural resource projects. Kris will be presenting and participating in an ODFW Commission Tour. She worked on getting the testing center functional here at OSU Extension.

Heather reported she met with Ed Salminen to secure a GIS subcontractor for irrigation status mapping project. She attended the OrCP's webinar on Oregon land use and rules (a history and where we are now). Heather attended the OACD strategic planning retreat with OACD board members and executive director. She is assisting in picking speakers for the OACD annual conference in October here in Hood River. Heather met with Oregon Ag Trust and Carly to discuss the potential for partnering on an RCPP proposal to NRCS for easements and other projects to improve farmland. The ODA AgWater Quality Meeting will be held in March. Heather is beginning to work on the HRSWCD annual report.

Directors' reports –

Chuck reported about participating in the puncturevine pull event at the waterfront. Bernadette and a volunteer have been watering plants by Indian Creek from this past spring planting. A Watershed Group volunteer created shade areas to protect the conifer trees. The HR Watershed Group will be hosting a tour about the Neal Creek Project in August.

Pete reported summer pear harvest was uneventful and will begin harvesting winter pears. FID will be shutting down at the end of this month. Wildland fire fighters have gone back to the fairgrounds to set up their headquarters. They were concerned with the heat and wind this week, but the Whiskey Creek fire doesn't appear to be growing. Currently there is a USDA wildlife biologist in the area who has funds earmarked for encroachment problems with bears, deer, elk, etc. He is working within HR, Wasco and Sherman counties. Contact Pete if you know of anyone who is having problems.

Chal begins picking winter pears tomorrow. FDA is doing a FSMA inspection tomorrow. SQI audit today.

Annie will participate in the Special Districts Association of Oregon's board member training on the 18th. There is a Climate Resiliency study on water quality (projections for the future, recharge, creating infrastructure) kicking off in a couple of months.

Andrew reported summer pears are done and winter pears starting.

Brian has a contractor working on piping. He has finished harvest for summer pears, peaches, and nectarines.

Permits –One permit for powerlines out by East Side Road. Replacing power poles and updating transmission lines. The board had no comments.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 3rd at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to sign the Grant Agreement of the NACD Urban Agriculture Grant

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rice, Conservation Technician

Approved at the 10/3/24 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from October 3rd, 2024 District Board Meeting

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer, and Ben Saur

Associate Directors: Chuck Gehling

District and NRCS Staff: Heather Hendrixson, Kris Schaedel, Cheryl Rice, Carly Heron (NRCS), and Cal Dwyer-online (NRCS)

Visitors- Lissa Biehn-online, USDA FSA (provided updates on statewide fire grants through ECP (opens on 10/7/24) and EFRP; if you know someone from Green Diamond, send them Lissa's contact information; open position at the USDA beginning on 10/7/24; county committee elections happening in November-separate ballot from county, state, federal elections)

Consent agenda – Ben moved, and Annie seconded:

- To approve the minutes of September 5th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the September 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of September 30th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$280,247.56. Income of \$96,200.10 included \$36,500 from PSP sampling from EPA, \$33,081.01 from the ODF Defensible Space grant, \$23,854 from OWEB for the Woosley and Sherell Irrigation Improvement Projects, and \$2,765.09 in expense reimbursement from the HRWG (which includes \$2000 from the OWEB monitoring grant).
- Expenses were those authorized at the September meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5515-5523 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Ascensus as follows:

Bills to be Paid		October 3, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$17,467.98
5515	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5516	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, Bluehost, logo tablecloth	\$264.69
5517	Century Link	Office phone service	\$230.86
5518	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$85.29
5519	Cheryl Rice	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$543.53
5520	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$427.86
5521	Central Gorge Master Gardeners	Food bank expansion - NACD Urban grant	\$6,200.00
5522	Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation	community garden - NACD Urban grant	\$6,950.00
5523	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #704575	\$31.71
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$58.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Ascensus SIMPLE IRA	Simple IRA	\$2,003.74
		Total	\$35,501.76

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Kris provided updates on the legislative action for funding bilingual pesticide education positions potentially at Oregon Department of Agriculture. Currently, the bill is being drafted by legal counsel and we are not sure if it will be an Agriculture Committee bill or a bill that receives individual bipartisan support from representatives. The group was supportive.

New Business:

Heather discussed the draft audit report which included the agreed upon principles and financial statements. Heather will provide additional information for the new auditor. The group discussed the report and was supportive.

Heather discussed a new restoration application for the OWEB FIP-\$375,000 for on-farm irrigation upgrades. The FIP application includes 10 landowners covering almost 200 acres. Money is set aside for archaeological surveys which are needed for all FIP restoration grants. FIP grant applications are due November 1st.

Heather discussed OACD board member elections. There are 2 open positions, one in the northwest region and one in the southern Oregon region. Each open position had only one applicant. Ben made a motion to vote for the northwest region applicant and the southern region applicant on the OACD ballot. Annie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Reports –

Cal assisted Andy Dwyer (ODF) in forest management plans and plot maps. She attended an NRCS training on AgLearn. She mentioned there were two new forestry applicants with EQIP. She assisted the Farmers Irrigation District with their fish salvage and assisted Andy with 5 forest inventories.

Carly reported that Andy Dwyer is moving into another ODF job. The deadline for EQIP is Nov 29th. There is \$500,000 for the East Fork Irrigation District and \$750,000 for the West Fork Irrigation District available to upgrade on-farm irrigation. Postcards were sent out to help get the word out about EQIP funding. Carly held a community meeting with Baldwin Creek Landowners and helped them fill out forestry applications on site. The overarching ODF agreement with NRCS is now signed.

Cheryl reported mobile chipping will occur on October 21st and 22nd. She helped organize, publicize and participated in the 9/19 Puncturevine Pull event at the waterfront. She collected water samples for PSP monitoring on 9/3 and 9/24. Cheryl developed 1 OWEB Small grant for irrigation upgrades. She tabled at the OSU Extension Front Yard Garden Tour. She assisted with collecting forest inventory data with ODF and NRCS, assisted in collecting flow meter readings and collecting temperature logger data with HRWG, and participated in 7 spawning surveys with the CTWS.

Kris worked on her presentation for the OACD conference. She developed the OWEB FIP restoration grant budget and abstract for review at a Hood River Restoration Partnership meeting. She also attended an OWEB FIP cohorts meeting in Redmond. She has been working with Andy Wilson on the ArcGIS Pro map of irrigation system updates. SWCD was awarded \$60,000 through a NACD Urban Agriculture grant. Some of those funds will go to support the OSU Extension Master Gardener Association and Cascade Columbia Housing Corporation.

Heather reported the Annual Report is almost complete. She met with OWEB about the archaeological survey needs with irrigation projects. She prepared and sent out the Fall eNews. She filed a time extension for the garlic mustard grant. She participated in one spawning survey with CTWS.

Directors' reports –

Chuck reported that he attended the HRWG Neal Creek tour. He assisted in the fish salvage with Farmers Irrigation District. On November 16th the HRWG will be having its annual celebration at The Ruins.

Ben reported he finished harvesting hay at the end of August. He was able to reduce irrigation using low flow handlines and watering at night. He toured the HRWG Baldwin Creek Project. He is still harvesting but done planting and weeding.

Annie attended the SDAO Board Members Role, Expectations and Ethics Meeting in The Dalles. The group discussed. Her work has been busy with many tiers of permitting for federal projects. The Port is having an open house to walk the Hood River Bridge on Sunday, October 6th.

Brian reported that Crestline has started fusing pipe on the East Fork. Irrigation water will be turned off in the middle of the month. There will be a fish salvage at the end of the month for the East Fork Irrigation District. On Monday, October 7th, he will be hosting a tour for the Clean Currents Convention about irrigation modernization programs. He finished harvest and the weather was great.

Permits –None

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 7th at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

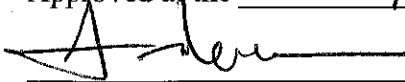
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved the OACD ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rice, Conservation Technician

Approved at the November 7, 2024 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

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

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from December 5th, 2024, District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Annie Alsheimer (online), Andrew Halliday, Pete Siragusa 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): N/A

- Heather reported per Lissa's email: Fruit acreage reporting is due by 1/15 and the food safety certification for specialty crops (FSCSC) for 2024 applications are due by the end of January.

Consent agenda – Andrew moved, and Ben seconded:

- To approve the minutes of November 7th, 2024, as written.
- To accept the November 2024 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of November 30th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$299,522.67. Income of \$47,407.29 included \$24,148.50 from ODA, \$300 OACD speaker discount, \$7,195.22 from workshops, \$763.57 reimbursement from the Watershed Group and 2 canceled checks resulting in the negative seen on the Financial Report
- Expenses were those authorized at the November meeting
- To approve payment of bills #5538-5550 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Ascensus as follows:

Bills to be Paid		December 5, 2024	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$17,455.55
5538	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5544	US Bank	Clicktime, Zoom, meeting supplies, pest licence registration for workshop participants	\$3,722.66
5543	Century Link	Office phone service	\$239.37
5542	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$3,000.47
5541	Cheryl Rice	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$179.02
5540	Heather Hendrixson	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$1,257.00
5539	Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers	annual report mailing	\$277.29
5545	Weatherly Printing	pesticide workshop packets	\$227.25
5546	Sensiba	annual audit and financial statements	\$7,400.00
5547	Leo Garcia/The Next Step	leadership workshop Nov 5-7 2024	\$7,500.00
5548	Pine Grove Grange	Nov, Dec 2024 pesticide license training rental	\$200.00
5549	SDAO	SDAO-SDIS annual membership dues	\$177.00
5550	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #854498	\$22.38
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$61.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Ascensus SIMPLE IRA	Simple IRA	\$2,002.05
		Total	\$44,959.14

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Draft pesticide legislation is now written to support two bilingual educators housed at OSU PSEP. This will not be a committee bill and is sponsored by Rep. Helm with additional representatives signing on in support. Kris has provided edits, and the language is being tweaked. Legislative days will be in February.

New Business:

Heather reported the recruitment announcement for District Manager has been sent out to various platforms including SDAO, Columbia Gorge News, OWEB listserv etc. Applications are being sent to a board email which Andrew oversees. The recruitment announcement was reviewed by Special Districts and SDAO. Please send the announcement out to your networks.

The board discussed what needs to happen for the transition of Heather leaving and the new District Manager. Heather has been creating "How to do" lists for specific tasks and putting a list together of what needs to be done over the next 120 days.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th instead of January 2nd due to the holiday.

Heather reported there needs to be a separation of duties with the accounting bookkeeping services, especially with the transition of the new District Manager. She had a meeting with the OACD accountant which was expensive. Brian talked with Bernard (Bear) Trotebas who is a bookkeeper for the Hood River Watershed Group and for East Fork Irrigation. Heather talked with Bear yesterday and he is interested in being our bookkeeper. He can help make the transition from Quickbooks Desktop to Quickbooks Online, monthly financial reports, payroll reports, etc. Heather will check back with him regarding a contract or pay by the hour. Andrew moved, Ben seconded for Heather to hire Bernard "Bear" Trotebas as bookkeeper.

Heather reported she bought a new computer from Windy River. She will work to transfer all her files onto the new computer for the new District Manager.

Next year, the Columbia Fruit Growers Association will no longer pay to have their non-profit mailing label. We will either need to use another group's non-profit label or create an electronic version of our annual report. A few years ago Heather looked into getting our own non-profit mailing label, but it would cost more than it would cost to mail the reports out via regular mail.

Informational Reports –

Cal Dwyer (*Carly reported*) Cal has been processing many applications. She attended various trainings. She processed two payments for completed work.

Carly received 40 new applications which were mostly for irrigation improvements and a few for air quality improvements. She had two evening open houses to help fill out applications and enter information into the system. FSA and Heather were there to help out. Carly was part of an interview panel to replace Andy Dwyer from ODF. She has been to various meetings and trainings. She interviewed interns for the summer for a variety of positions: engineering, soil conservation, range, and Natural Resource Specialist positions. There will be 20 summer interns across the state.

Cheryl reported she is updating the native plant sale website and updating bucket posters for the day of sale. Our two spring chipping days are full and we are hoping to receive grant funding for additional days. She taught a watershed lesson with CTWS to 4th and 5th graders at Parkdale Elementary School. Cheryl participated in the East Fork Fish Salvage. She created a Facebook page and began posting about upcoming events and information. She also wrote 3 e-news articles and an article about our native plant sale for OSU Master Gardeners January Home & Garden section of the Columbia Gorge News.

Kris reported the Spanish pre-license pesticide training (this week) and the Spanish language leadership training went well. There is high demand for the Spanish language leadership training, and she is working with Mt. Adams Fruit to support another training in February that they will pay for. The English pre-license training had a 60% pass rate. In January, the Worker Protection training will be held. She has been working on the FIP grant and has met with OWEB to discuss specifics. There is an all-day technical review team meeting with

OWEB tomorrow where they will be touring sites and reviewing projects. The group discussed the water conservation projects and the measurable instream water benefit.

Heather reported that she participated in the quarterly PSP meeting and the due date of the next biennium for grants will be in April. She attended a webinar on partnership governance hosted by OWEB. The CTWS contract expires at the end of this month, and she is working with the Tribes on the contract for next year. She said the HRWG needs a bigger office and will likely be moving out sometime this year, however there is no timeline yet.

Directors' reports –

Ben reported wrapping up the last Saturday market two weeks ago. He began his manure management project and finished the hedgerow project with NRCS. He mentioned everything has been winterized.

Chuck reported the HR Watershed Group's Annual Gathering was on Thursday, November 14th and went well with a lot of people attending. This was the second time for the annual gathering. He mentioned bids will start coming in on the Bear Creek bridge project for the Forest Service. There were 6 contractors for the pre-bid meeting.

Annie reported she created a LinkedIn post for the District Manager position. She suggested posting the position on the Gorge Technology Alliance website.

Pete reported the November Farmers Irrigation District meeting was hugely attended do to the fact the rates were raised for customers. He attended the OWRC conference where he was able to meet people from other districts to learn what they are doing. On the farm, he is pruning and has closed everything up for the season.

Andrew reported cutting fire blight from the orchard. He mentioned that the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers will be addressing more state issues regarding labor on the farms.

Chal reported pulling stumps and burning limbs and trees in the orchard.

Brian reported he also attended the OWRC meeting. On the East Fork Irrigation District, Crestline is continuing with upgrading pipeline and is halfway done. SkyCam has put in the other line and is about three-quarters of the way done. EFID is still waiting on NRCS for approval for the East Side Lateral. He hopes it will go out to bid soon. Brian also mentioned that the updated FEMA floodplain maps are out for public comment.

Permits –Heather mentioned a permit for a building within the Scenic Area, but there were no natural resource concerns so the group decided not to comment.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 9th at 4 p.m. at the OSU extension office conference room.

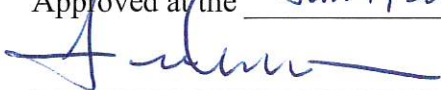
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded, and approved to hire Bernard "Bear" Trotebas as bookkeeper.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rice, Conservation Technician

Approved at the Jan 9, 2025 meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

