

**Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Minutes from March 6, 2025, District Board Meeting**

Present: Directors: Brian Nakamura, Pete Siragusa, Annie Alsheimer (online) and Ben Saur (*in attendance only for Director Reports*)

Associate Directors: Chal Oates (online)

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

Visitors: Jed reported per Lissa's email: They are finishing up the acreage reporting for perennial fruit crops and encourage producers to timely report any spring plantings they complete. Please encourage producers to report losses to FSA and/or their crop insurance agent if we have any adverse weather events that cause damage.

Consent agenda – Pete moved and Brian seconded. Annie voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- To approve the minutes of February 6th, 2025, as written.
- To accept the February 2025 Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet as distributed. As of February 28th, the balance in the bank accounts (including the CD) was \$253,955.45. Income of \$23,964.24 included from workshops \$11,439.27, Plant Sale \$482.39, and the CTWS contract for \$11,848.00, and \$194.58 from reimbursed expenses.
- Expenses were those authorized at the February meeting.
- To approve payment of bills #5577-5585 and bank transfers to Lease Direct, ADP, and Ascensus as follows:

Bills to be Paid		March 6, 2025	
Check No.	Payee	Account	Amount
DD/EP	staff	staff wages and liabilities (not SIMPLE IRA)	\$13,119.63
5576	MCAREC	office rent (May 1, 2024 rate increase)	\$1,164.20
5577	US Bank (Heather Hendrixson)	Clicktime, Zoom	\$48.99
5578	US Bank (Kris Schaedel)	bluehost, calendly	\$27.00
5579	Century Link	Office phone service	\$146.57
5580	Kris Schaedel	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$4,972.27
5581	Cheryl Rice	misc. expenses reimbursement	\$1,298.70
5582	Leo Garcia/The next step	Leadership skills workshop 2/19 - 2/21	\$7,500.00
5583	Weatherly Printing	Printed materials for Spanish lang pesticide train	\$194.95
5584	Numbers Guru	Bookkeeping services Jan 25 - Inv17348	\$87.50
5585	Pacific Office Automation	copies - invoice #62800	\$72.45
EP	ADP	payroll services	\$61.46
EP	Lease Direct	copier lease	\$73.44
EP	Ascensus SIMPLE IRA	Simple IRA	\$1,000.60
		Total	\$29,767.76

Old Business:

Kris provided information on the OWEB FIP grant agreement for on-farm irrigation upgrades which total \$375,000.00. The board discussed. Annie moved and Pete seconded. Brian voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Jed received the Columbia Gorge CWMA MOU request for the SWCD to continue to be a part of the Columbia Gorge CWMA. The board discussed signing the MOU request but support the request for funding. Pete moved and Brian seconded. Annie voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Jed reported that the NACD sent out a Federal Impacts survey voluntarily requesting responses. The board discussed whether they would like to respond to the survey. Jed will send out the questions to the board. Brian

reported that he attended the Required Board Member Public Meeting Law online training last week. Board members are required to take the training once in their term.

Informational Reports –

Carly reported working through EQIP applicants and sending out draft documents for applicants to review. The existing IRA contracts are moving forward with payment. She terminated and offboarded Cal due to Federal Government cuts since she was a probationary employee. Carly appealed but is still waiting to hear.

Cheryl reported that the native plant sales are doing well, and we are getting closer to the break-even point. She has scheduled more than half of the available time slots for the April mobile chipping days with MARS. She completed an application for irrigation upgrade. She supported Kris with various on farm education trainings/classes. She helped CTWS pit tag Spring Chinook and created a video showing her work and posted on social media.

Kris reported Respiratory Fit Testing went very well in collaboration with Providence, One Community Health and Skyline Hospital. It will happen again on Monday, March 10th since the second day was snowed out. Leo Garcia's Supervisory Skills and Leadership Class took place with 50 people in attendance. The Spanish Pre-license also took place, along with the Oregon Rules and Laws Training with OSU PSEP, the day after the test. She has been assisting many people with the reciprocity process between WA and OR pesticide applicators license. The pesticide legislation, House Bill 3010, is still waiting on a work session. Representatives Helms and Owens believe the bill has the votes to pass through. Funding for future trainings have been incorporated into the FIP (\$250,000) and PSP (\$80,000). She met with Ashley and Virginia (OSU PSEP) to begin planning a Spanish Winter Hort class for next year.

Jed reported this is his second week as District Manager. Heather has onboarded him on various District Manager duties. He has reviewed the current ODA Ag Water Quality Support grant and submitted a new ODA Ag Water Quality Support grant.

Directors' reports –

Cal reported winter maintenance is ongoing.

Annie reported she attended the HRWG Climate meeting. The Watershed Rock Opera is taking place on April 11th-13th at the Columbia Center for the Arts.

Pete reported Farmers Irrigation District had to shut water down on a couple of occasions due to the cold and when water flows were too high. The reservoir is still filling and getting ready for irrigation and spring season. **Brian** reported East Fork Irrigation District will turn water on next week to test out the new pipelines. Steve is applying for more grants to upgrade more pipelines.

Ben reported he had just attended the Farm First Aid Course. He has started seeding.

Permits – application for a farm stand off Neal Creek Road. The board discussed. Jed will draft a letter and pass it along to Heather regarding the importance of riparian vegetation since the farm stand will be close to creek. Von Flotow submitted a denial appeal for construction on his land. The board discussed and decided no action needed to take place.

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

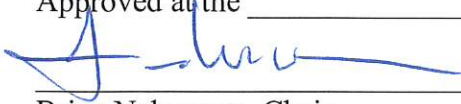
Summary of Actions Taken:

- ✓ Moved, seconded and unanimously approved the consent agenda.
- ✓ Moved, seconded and unanimously approved the OWEB FIP grant agreement.
- ✓ Moved, seconded and unanimously approved signing the Columbia Gorge CWMA MOU agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rice, Conservation Technician

Approved at the _____ meeting of the Hood River SWCD.



Brian Nakamura, Chair

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