

# DRAFT

**Union Soil & Water Conservation District  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

**OSU Extension Office Conference Room  
10507 N McAlister Rd, La Grande, OR 97850  
Remote access was available by GoToMeeting and by phone**

**Directors Present:**

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

**Staff:**

Jim Webster  
Anna Lindquist  
Aaron Bliesner

**Others:**

Justin Faulhaber, FSA  
Ana Gordon, NRCS  
Shiloh Simrell, ODA  
Brittany Mills, ODA

**I. Call to Order** – Chairman Teeter called the meeting to order at 7:01PM

- A. Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves.
- B. Agenda review:** Chairman Teeter asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Director Wallender to approve the Meeting Agenda as presented. Director Boehne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**II. Administrative**

- A. November 13, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes review:** Director Boehne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Director Ricker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. October Financial Statements Review:** Director Wallender made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Director Boehne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**III. Agency Reports**

- A. FSA-Justin Faulhaber:** Acreage reports are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. County Committee elections are on December 12, 2024. Director Wallender is a candidate. A new program called Marketing Assistance Special Crops is coming out and will apply to grass seed crops. Still awaiting the new Farm Bill.
- B. ODA – Shiloh Simrell:** ODA Restoration Grant application due in January 2025. The Grande Ronde Ag WQMP is due this year for revision. Shiloh will be working with Jim to schedule the review. There is an upcoming grant for website upgrades to meet ADA rules.
- C. NRCS – Ana Gordon:** There was a record number of applicants this fall for EQIP funding (82). The CSP application are due in February 2025.
- D. No other agencies were present.**

**IV. Staff Reports, Project Updates**

- A. Anna Lindquist:** Anna attended the GRMW SOS conference and sees that there may be some good connections for CREP with partners. She has been helping the Morgan Lake Firewise Community with project planning. There is interest in Firewise from several

# DRAFT

other areas in Union County. The firewise partners held a public meeting in Elgin that went well.

- B. Aaron Bliesner:** Aaron provided updates on District projects including the Buffalo Flats project, Little Creek LC 5/6 diversions, and Elmer Dam. LC 5/6 project is complete and the a Operations and Maintenance meeting was held with the irrigators. Elmer Dam project is progressing with work on the pump stations at the dam and at Booth Lane.
- C. Jim Webster:** Jim provided partner updates including the the GRMW, and the OACD Natural and Working Lands Group. The GRMW approved funding for the Little Creek Buffalo Flats project. The OWRD proposal will be reviewed by the Water Resources Commission on December 12, 2024 and a funding decision will be made. Jim will begin working on the next ICR negotiations.

## **V. Old Business**

- A. 2024 Holiday Party venues** - Jim provided a list of potential venues for the annual holiday party to the Board. Directors discussed the options and selected Tap That Growlers as the venue and caterer. The Directors then selected the date and time for the dinner on January 14, 2025 at 6:00pm. Jim will contact the selected venue and set up the event.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Agriculture Drainage Channel Maintenance Program-** Brittany Mills, ODA, explained the history and purpose of the Ag Drainage Channel Maintenance Program. For those drainage channels that meet the qualifications, work can be completed without going through a DSL permit process. Directors know of a few drainage channels in the county, but aren't sure how much this program may be needed or used.

**VII. Public Forum and Announcements:** No public announcements.

**Director Wallender made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Director Boehne seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Board meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.**

**The next meeting of the Board will be the Annual Meeting to take place Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7:00PM at OSU Extension Conference Room**