



**UMPQUA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

September 12, 2024

Directors Present:

Chair Nathan Baumgartner
Director Tom Black
Director Beth Frakes
Director Bob Miller

Staff Present:

District Manager/Conservation Planner Rhonda Black

Agencies Present:

Natural Resources Conservation Service Assistant State
Conservationist for Field Operations (Basin Team Leader)
Central Coast/Upper Willamette and Southwest Basin
Heather Y. Medina Saucedo

Others Present:

Kate Baumgartner

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Chair Baumgartner made a motion, 2nd by Director Miller to call the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The motion **unanimously passed**.

FISCAL PROVIDER REPORT:

In Fiscal Provider Graham's absence, the District Manager explained the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2024.

Page 1 - The Balance Sheet. It shows total current assets of \$43,864.42 and total liabilities & Equity of \$43,864.42.

Page 2 - Check Register - General Checking - started the month with \$8,986.78 and ended the month with \$43,123.88.

Page 3 - Statement of Activity - Total Income: \$34,558.33 and total Expenses: \$28,494.17. Leaving a cash balance of \$43,192.35.

Page 4 - Monthly Comparison – As of August 31st - Income: \$10,409.83 and total Expenses: \$8,693.06. Cash balance of \$43,192.35.

Page 5 – Reports that are due, PTO balances, and beginning of Individual Grant and/or funding source details.

Page 6 through 9 – Individual Grant and/or funding source details.

APPROVAL OF BILLS & TREASURER’S REPORT FOR AUDIT

Chair Baumgartner made a motion, 2nd by Director Frakes to approve the bills and the August 2024 Treasurer’s Report. The motion **unanimously passed**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 10th Meeting and March 3rd Special Meeting minutes for 2022 were not yet completely transcribed, but will be available at future meetings. All were lengthy meetings.

Chair Baumgartner made a motion, 2nd by Director Frakes to approve the August 8, 2024 Business Meeting minutes. The motion **unanimously passed**.

STAFF REPORT:

Conservation Technician/District Manager Rhonda Black:

September 9, 2024

- OWEB:
 - 2023-2025 District Operations Capacity Grant –
 - Updated SWCD website with meeting agenda and minutes.
 - Still looking for an appropriate grant to fund soil tests for both Umpqua & Douglas SWCDs, which will also provide a service necessary for NRCS.
 - OWEB Small Grants Program:
 - OWEB Small Grants Status:
 - Otter-Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion – 60% of the funds have been used with the majority going to materials and supplies.
 - Providence Creek Runoff Management – 60% of the funds have been used with the majority going to materials and supplies.
 - Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Phase 1 – 60% of the funds have been used with the majority going to materials and supplies. All of the supplies have been purchased for this project and the fencing is 100% complete. The final step is the heavy use areas at the gates and elk jumps. The landowner had knee surgery at the end of August, therefore, the project will be completed at a later date. Multiple site visits to project site.
 - Elk Creek Riparian OWEB Small Grant – 60% of the funds have been received from OWEB. Project work has begun with SWCD contractor, Ruwaldt Consulting. Armenian Blackberry has been removed and site has been prepped for willow planting. Soil sample of site has been taken and report has been received. Willow whips and stakes have started be collected for staking and building fascines. Multiple site visits with landowners and

contractor. We're hoping to have this project complete by fall 2024 with summer 2025 being for blackberry regrowth management and control.

- Small Grants Pre-Project Tours –
 - Will be working on putting these together as long as it's okay with landowners.
- Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby:
 - Applied for a grant for small equipment purchase of drone for project work, HOBO water level logger monitors. Waiting to hear back from them as to status of grant application, but the grant was not funded.
- OWEB TA Grant:
 - Application submitted to OWEB on 04/26. Contractor and District Manager working on this for 3-farm bridges, 2 other bridges/culverts, and a tidegate structure. This will be for the design, engineering, and permits.
 - Matching grant from ODFW for \$2,500 will need to be obtained.
 - Geotechnical site visit has been completed.
 - Lots of meetings with engineer.
 - Unfortunately, the OWEB review team recommendation for this grant was, "Do Not Fund". Waiting for OWEB to provide the review information to us.
- BLM:
 - BLM Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination grant, "Umpqua Noxious Weed Control" for both contractor and myself. Waiting to hear back from the BLM on this.
- USFWS:
 - Invasive Species Eradication grant submitted 05/26. This grant was not awarded to us.
- PARTNERSHIPS:
 - Umpqua 7, Coos 4, Mid-Coast 3 OWEB Small Grant Teams –
 - Umpqua 7 –
 - Working with Lee Russell and Elk Creek WC Contractor.
 - Small Grant Team:
 - Unsure of status of Elk Creek WC. Lee let me know, that as co-leader I can move the team's grants forward and handle the paperwork if Elk Creek is not able too.
 - Reviewed small grant application for Douglas SWCD.
 - Next small grant window is 09/01-09/15. We have around \$29,000 left for the small grant team applicants for the 2023-2025 biennium.
 - Hoping to submit a grant for runoff (gutters and downspouts, and a large heavy use area) at the Costa Ranch near Scholfield Creek as this project was part of the OWEB TA grant that was not recommended for funding.

- Coos 4 – No new news.
 - Mid-Coast 3 – No new news.
- Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers –
 - No August meeting.
 - Next meeting is on 09/17 that might include tour of Glover site.
 - Glover Lands Estuary Enhancement Project –
 - Updates provided to Kevin Keller and Cris Salzar with PUR and landowner Cliff Glover, about quotes for livestock watering system on 08/07 and additional information 08/08.
 - Provided NRCS Conservation Practice Standards:
 - 516-Livestock Pipeline
 - 533-Pumping Plant
 - 614-Watering Facility
 - 561-Heavy Use Protection
 - Received the \$8,469.00 reimbursement for work already done by SWCD for PUR for this grant.
 - Keven Keller wants Umpqua SWCD to design the livestock watering system and obtain quotes for the materials and supplies. Will need to work with landowner in order to achieve this. PUR Executive Director Keller said he could provide some funding to the SWCD through PUR for SWCD performing this service. We will find out.
 - Cris Salzar has obtained permission to collect willow cuttings on the Bolon Island property.
- South Coast Tide Gate Collaborative – No new news.
- Tide Gate Affinity Group – No new news.
- State Tide Gate – No new news.
- Providence Creek Area Updates:
 - Port of Umpqua
 - Providence Creek Tide Gates –
 - The Providence Creek Study Grant to Business Oregon has been approved in the amount of \$160,000. We are waiting for the financial department at Business Oregon to put the grant forward to the next steps. The grant our consultant prepared for our partner at the Port of Umpqua
 - ODFW grant for \$40,000 match will need to be written and our consultant will do that when he returns from Alaska. ODFW is waiting for legislature to find out when ODFW will have these funds available to apply for.
 - Leeds Island Park and Restoration Project –
 - City Council approved Council Letter 024-036 at the 05/06 meeting, 4 out of 5 Council members. One member of the public spoke up highly in favor of the project. No members of the public

- spoke up against the project. The letter authorizes Umpqua Soil Water Conservation District, working with Matt Ruwaldt Environmental Consulting and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on a local Government Grant Program, to move forward planning a Leed's Island project.
- A grant to ODFW in the amount of \$40,000 will be written for TA.
 - A grant to the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Grant will need to be written for acquisition. Written by Contractor and submitted by City of Reedsport as this grant must be submitted by a city.
- Additional Information:
 - Weekly meetings with Engineer.
- The Reedsport Collective (Project Blessing Food Pantry) – No new news.
 - Douglas County –
 - Douglas County Special Projects. Continuing to work with assisting Tracy Pope with her grant.
 - Douglas County Weed Board – Attended meetings, virtually.
 - Smith/Umpqua/Dunes Stewardship Group – No new news. Supposed to have a meeting in August, but haven't heard anything.
 - DEQ Umpqua TMDL Implementation – Next meeting 10/08.
 - Forest Service –
 - Tsalila – Continuing to work with FS and Umpqua Discovery Center.
 - T-shirt design created by artist Trevor Black. We had T-shirts in the past for Tsalila and are seriously considering getting this tradition going again for staff and others involved with Tsalila. Ordered T-shirts from Signs and Shirts Unlimited in Reedsport and paid ½ down.
 - Waiting to hear back from FS about agreement extension.
 - Tsalila will be held September 24th-26th with setup happening on 09/23 and clean-up on 09/27.
 - We will have the Oregon Coast Aquarium at the event this year.
 - If anyone would like to assist with this event, please let me know.
 - Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative –Next meeting 09/13.
 - Umpqua Oaks Partnership – The next meeting will be held on 09/17 with a virtual option.
 - Umpqua Native Plant Partnership – Will be working with Morgan Fay to obtain plants for Glover Project along with Cris Salizar with PUR. Will meet with Morgan either late September or October to discuss options through the UNPP.
 - Hydro Breakfast Meeting – Next meeting on 10/03.
 - USDA/NRCS –
 - AgLearn – Haven't heard anything.
 - Douglas Weed Management Area – No new news.

- Elk Creek Watershed Council –
 - Lee is still working within the small grant program, but the council is in the process of dissolving. Haven't heard anything new. Asked Lee by email, but he won't comment. Will need to follow-up with either in-person or telephone conversation.
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) – Took survey.
- Oregon Conservation Education Association Network (OCEAN) – No new news.
- Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association – Executive Board meeting on 09/27.
- Oregon State University Extension Service –
 - Held hands-on soil sampling workshop on Tuesday, August 20th at the Elkton Community Education Center from 3-5 p.m. About 12 people or so at the event and it was a fun workshop with great participants. Worked with Logan Bennett with OSU Small Farms Program on this. Planning on having another soils class this winter.
 - Tree School Umpqua will be held on Saturday, September 28th. SWCD might have a table at the event, even if it is a static table. Working with Alicia Christiansen. Sign up at: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events/tree-school-umpqua>
 - Best Fields First is a workshop series where landowners learn to find which field is their best and start with that field for renovation for their particular ag practice. Please register on-line. Umpqua SWCD will be presenting information on funding programs available that fund ag practices on the evening of October 3rd. Presenter for this workshop is Shelby Filley, Livestock and Forages Specialist. I highly recommend this class! The first class begins tonight, but classes are recorded. Sign up at: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events/best-fields-first-forage-planning-series>
- Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network – Working with Megan Kemple. Provided a letter of support as a partner for regional hubs to assist landowners with soil health and that Umpqua SWCD would be willing to serve as the Regional Hub Lead, pending funding and a formal agreement. There would be a stipend to the SWCD in the amount of approximately \$4,000 per year if OrCAN is awarded their grant and if we are approved as a Regional Hub Lead.
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
 - Elk Creek Riparian Restoration Projects:
 - 5 properties involved with this project, one of which is already being worked on through a small grant. Hoping to work with the City of Elkton on these projects, which will fit into their DEQ TMDL plan. This is a stretch of Elk Creek within the City limits of Elkton where there is little to no shade on the creek, and the riparian has been invaded by Armenian

Blackberry and at least two different kinds of ivy, along with Reed Canary Grass.

Ongoing TA:

- Scholfield Creek Ranch – See above. Will be submitting OWEB Small Grant to start project.
- Continuing to work with Butler Creek landowner on future OWEB Small Grant to reduce Ag runoff from barn by placing gutters and downspouts. Hoping to fund a water collection storage tank for piping water to livestock water tank on hardened pad.
- South Side Smith River. Will be following up with water quality plan and OWEB Small Grant.
- Contact made with Smith River ranch owner who is interested in bridges, livestock exclusion fencing, off-stream watering, tide gate replacement, etc. Follow-up in process. Will visit ranch this summer to begin AgWQ planning, mapping, etc. Will follow up in November with Umpqua SWCD Contractor for additional site visits and recommendations.
- Possible in-stream work, riparian buffer and grant for project at Wild Azalea Vineyards. Will need SWCD Contractor's assistance with this and will make a site visit with him upon his return in November.
- Providence Creek – Landowner called about fill and removal, levy repair, fencing, etc. Will follow up in November when Consultant is available.
- ADMINISTRATION:
 - Financial documents, statements, timesheets, etc. recorded, filed, and loaded into Google Drive for Fiscal Provider.
 - Meeting information provided to Directors, and ODA WQ Specialist & Program Lead.
 - Business Meeting notice provided to media, electronic notice list.
 - Provided legal ad to The World Newspaper for notice of annual meeting which ran on 7/30/24 and 8/6/24.
 - Had surgery on 09/04. Took a few days off for recovery.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Heather Medina Saucedo – USDA NRCS Oregon – Central Coast/Upper Willamette and Southwest Basin Team Leader

The Roseburg Service Center has been busy with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These programs are available to all producers throughout the state for cropland, forestry, agriculture and pastures for climate change.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for 2025-2026 will have more funds coming up.

The NRCS Service Center in Roseburg has a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) technical assistance agreement with Pheasants Forever who is assisting people who are interested in Farm Bill Programs.

District Conservationist David Ferguson has moved to his family's farm in Ohio and works for NRCS in Ohio now. A new District Conservationist based out of Roseburg has been hired and that person is from the East Coast of the United States.

The NACD grant for SWCDs is to provide technical assistance to NRCS.

Eastern Oregon applied for a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS), but this program could also apply to tidegate work (has been done in Coquille) with up to \$245,000 in funding available for small tidegate projects. NRCS has limited engineering and is using Business Oregon designs. The Local Food Strategy is also very popular, but there can only be one, not both.

NRCS Roseburg Report

Peter Winnick, DC in Jackson Co, is currently acting DC for Roseburg office

Zach Dimare is Resource Conservationist

Jensen Dohman, Soil Conservationist

Ian Bernot, Soil Conservationist

Gibson McCurry, Engineer in Roseburg office for the SW part of basin. o Csanyi Matusicky, Habitat Conservationist Specialist, Pheasants Forever and NRCS partner position

District Conservationist, Roseburg field office advertised, and interviews held. Selection made; tentative job offer made. No start date yet.

EQIP – IRA contracting

CSP – Roseburg – contracting IRA and General

NACD NRCS Technical Assistance Grant now open until September 30, 2024

Upcoming trainings:

Intermediate Forestry Training- Oct 9th and 10th in Central Point: All who attend need to have a basic level of forestry experience, inventory, planning, implementation.

Business Tools 101- SWCD partner positions who are assisting NRCS with planning/contracting. Can get on list for the 2nd or 3rd quarter training session (online). At minimum they will need to have access to CD and ProTracts.

Annie Marion – District Conservationist, NRCS Waldport Field Report

Announcements/Updates:

- None

Meetings/Site Visits:

- Aug. 5 – Site visit for CSP annual practice certification on N Fork Siuslaw
- Aug. 7-12 – Annual leave

- Aug. 13 – Attended training on NRCS wildlife habitat practices (Wetland/Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and Structures for Wildlife) in Salem
- Aug. 14 – Site visit to farm in Deadwood to discuss potential EQIP projects for riparian restoration, high tunnel, building soil health, irrigation efficiency, etc.
- Aug. 15 – Attended MidCoast Watersheds Council monthly Tech Team meeting
- Aug. 21 – Attended Lincoln SWCD Siletz Stakeholder Engagement – Siletz River float
- Aug. 23 – Meeting to review LSWCD’s Siletz Source Water Area Plan (NWQI)
- Aug. 29 – Attended Siuslaw Coho Partnership summer meeting in Mapleton
- Aug. 30 – Attended Water Resilience Field Day at Siletz Tribal Farm coordinated by the Dry Farm Collaborative and OSU Extension – outreach on NRCS programs
- Sep. 3 – Planning meeting for fall NRCS Soil Health & Sustainability for Field Staff training
- Sep. 3 - Attended Rainwater Catchment Tour at dahlia farm in Otis coordinated by LSWCD & OSU Extension – outreach on NRCS programs
- Sep. 9 – Planning meeting for Coastal Forage Variety Trail fall field day w/ OSU Extension
- Sep. 12 – Yakona Learning Center celebration near Newport

PROGRAMS:

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- FY24 EQIP applications
 - Nearly completed planning and contracting for FY24 EQIP.
 - Approved contracts so far: 4 Forest Management Plans (Lincoln), 5 IRA-Forestland (1 Lincoln, 4 Lane), 1 Upper Yaquina WQ (Lincoln), 1 Forest Resistance & Resilience (Lincoln), 1 Siuslaw Floodplain Reconnection (Douglas), 2 Local Foods Initiative (1 Lincoln, 1 Lane), 1 IRA Pastureland (Lincoln), 1 High Tunnel Initiative (Lincoln)
 - Still to go: 1 Upper Yaquina WQ (waiting on review/finalization of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for Composting Facility design)
- Prior year EQIP contracts
 - Completed several contract modifications

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- FY24 CSP Classic/Inflation Reduction Act applications
 - Received 2 FY24 CSP Classic applications (1 Lincoln, 1 Lane). Neither application was selected for funding this year. Can defer to next year.
- FY25 CSP Renewals
 - Received 1 application (Lane)—ranking will be in the fall
- Current CSP Contracts
 - Site visit for certification of forestry enhancements on contract on N Fork Siuslaw.
 - Completed minimum payment modifications on 3 current CSP contracts to bring the minimum annual payment up to \$4,000 from FY24 moving forward.

Easement Programs

- [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) (ACEP) & [Healthy Forests Reserve Program](#) (HFRP)
 - No activity to report.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Annual Report 2023/2024 – Action Item

The District Manager provided information and the Directors reviewed the annual report.

Director Miller made a motion, 2nd by Chair Baumgartner to approve the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024. The motion **unanimously passed**.

FUNDING COMMITTEE

Reports and follow up to items.

No new news.

ADJOURN MEETING:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Baumgartner.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next business meeting for the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is scheduled for October 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. by Go-To-Meeting teleconference and/or by computer, tablet or smartphone.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Black
District Manager/Conservation Planner
Recorder