



## West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD, the District) Board Meeting Minutes 10/21/2025

### **1. Meeting Location and Time:**

6:03 p.m. (Virtual via Zoom)

### **2. Introductions and Agenda Approval:**

Directors Present: Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Looney, Oliver; Directors Absent: Hamer, Sowder, DeFuria; Associate Directors Present: Hartline, Elicker, Spector, Wiley; Staff Present: DM Jogerst, Mauser, Gall (6:50pm); Guest: Winkel (6:30pm)

Director Oliver suggested reordering the audit presentation to precede fiscal reports if the auditor arrived early. The board agreed to retain the order as printed. The agenda was approved by acclamation.

### **3. Minutes:**

Board members reviewed the WMSWCD Board Meeting minutes from 09/16/2025<sup>i</sup>

Director Looney moved to approve the September 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Director Oliver seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously with the following votes: Preeg Riggsby – Yes, Looney – Yes, Oliver – Yes, Topaz – Yes. Directors Hamer, DeFuria and Sowder were absent from this meeting.

### **4. Review of Treasurer's Reports:**

Director Oliver reviewed financial reports for June through September 2025<sup>ii</sup>. Two staffing transitions in the Budget & Fiscal Manager role since June created temporary disruptions in reporting. The District has since engaged Laura Gray (Now CFO) as interim BFM. Discrepancies between board-approved FY 2024–25 budget line items and QuickBooks entries were identified as data entry errors—no mispending occurred. Laura is reconciling all line items and correcting budget-to-actual comparisons. Cash flow remains healthy despite delayed state/federal revenues due to the federal shutdown. Directors discussed condensing lengthy financial packets for future meetings while keeping digital versions comprehensive. No motion was required; reports accepted by consensus.

### **5. Public Comment Period:**

No members of the public were present, and no public comment was offered.

### **6. FY 2025 Audit Presentation:**

Auditor Rich Winkel of Dougall Conradi presented the Independent Auditor's Report for FY 2024–25. The District received a clean (unmodified) audit opinion. This is the first year using the Modified Cash Basis of accounting. Revenues and expenses were consistent with the prior year, with a small \$3,000 decrease in net position compared to a \$64,000 decrease the prior year. All expenses were under budget, and there were no compliance findings or internal control deficiencies. Winkel explained that modified cash basis removes large actuarial PERS liabilities that distort financials for small districts.

Director Oliver moved to accept the FY 2025 audited financial statements as presented. Director Looney seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously with the following votes: Preeg Riggsby – Yes, Looney – Yes, Oliver – Yes, Topaz – Yes. Directors Hamer, DeFuria and Sowder were absent from this meeting.

## **7. Farm & Soil Conservationist Presentation:**

Scott Gall (Farm & Soil Conservationist, WMSWCD) presented outcomes from the Sturgeon Lake/Dairy Creek Restoration. In 2018 the District replaced two failing culverts with a 96-foot bridge, excavated the channel, installed a debris boom, and completed extensive plantings (supported in part by Wessinger Foundation donations; the crossing is now "Bill's Crossing"). Pre-construction fish salvage confirmed juvenile Chinook presence, and a PIT-tag array now shows regular use by Chinook, steelhead, and sturgeon. Hydrologic connectivity and water clarity have improved, beaver activity is robust, and riparian plantings are achieving ~80–90% survival. Riparian easements along Dairy Creek secure long-term access and maintenance.

He also summarized collaboration with ODA, including the ongoing Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) effort. Using aerial imagery, ODA reviewed ~670 tax lots and identified 2 likely violations, 14 "compliance opportunities," and 83 restoration opportunities, with overall compliance exceeding 90%. Scott emphasized a voluntary, relationship-based approach to resolve issues—beginning with large operators—and noted lessons from a contentious public meeting where a softer, ground-truthed communication strategy would have been more effective. The Board thanked Gall for the update and his continued outreach.

## **8. District Manager Update:**

DM Jogerst reported on ongoing recruitment, fiscal management, and program activities. The Budget & Fiscal Manager recruitment closed with 39 completed applications, and 12 candidates advanced to interviews scheduled for November 5–7, 2025. Laura Gray of Now CFO continues serving as interim Budget & Fiscal Manager, focusing on reconciling FY 2024–25 data and preparing for FY 2025–26 budget development in consultation with the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission.

She also highlighted program and staff updates, including a successful Ash & Oak Workshop with 15 attendees and 39 online views, the conclusion of the summer internship program, and progress in the Stormwater Stars, Forestry, and Invasive Pest Monitoring programs. A 2.7-acre thinning project was scheduled for October 22, and a partnership meeting with OSU planned for October 31 regarding the Tualatin Mountain Forest acquisition. The Board commended Jogerst's steady leadership during fiscal

transitions and encouraged continued one-on-one meetings between the District Manager and individual Board members to share local priorities and strengthen collaboration.

## **9. Director Updates:**

Director Topaz reported that ODA recently concluded voluntary monitoring on her farm for invasive species and noted the loss of federal funding for the Japanese beetle program, raising concern about long-term impacts on local pest control efforts. She asked whether any District programs face similar risks and encouraged communication about potential funding threats. She also shared concerns from Sauvie Island residents about deer damaging native plantings and suggested exploring coordination with ODFW or other agencies to mitigate browsing impacts.

Director Preeg Riggsby and DM Jogerst discussed related updates, clarifying that ODA will discontinue Mediterranean Oak Borer trapping in 2026 due to its widespread presence but will continue Emerald Ash Borer monitoring. Director Preeg Riggsby also put out for consideration whether the District might help fill temporary funding gaps for Japanese Beetle eradication in the future due to funding cuts from ODA.

The next regular board meeting is November 18 from 4:30-5 PM, in person at The Old Spaghetti Factory. This is an abbreviated meeting before the Annual Meeting at the same location.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

<sup>i</sup> *WMSWCD Board meeting minutes September 16, 2025*

<sup>ii</sup> *Financial Reports June-September 2025*

<sup>iii</sup> *Staff Reports*