

West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2026

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

To access any materials referenced in these meeting minutes, please contact info@wmswcd.org with the subject line “Request for board meeting materials.”

Board Members Present: Riggsby, Oliver, Looney, Hamer, DeFuria, Sowder

Board Associate Directors Present: Elicker, Spector

Staff Present: Jogerst, Clarenbach, Greene, Scipioni, Delepine, Gall, Kern Korot, Taylor, Dvorsky

Members of the Public Present: Payne, Zakocs

1. **Call to Order**

Riggsby called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **Agenda Reviewⁱ**

Riggsby asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

3. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutesⁱⁱ**

Riggsby invited a motion to approve the February board meeting minutes.

Motion: Sowder moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

Second: Hamer.

Riggsby asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the Board voted.

Vote to approve: Riggsby, Oliver, Looney, Hamer, DeFuria, Sowder. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**

Stephanie Payne provided a brief update from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She noted that NRCS recently held its local workgroup meeting and thanked Jogerst and District planners for attending and providing program feedback. Payne also reported that NRCS has a new acting basin team leader for western Oregon, Heather Medina Saucedo, who may reach out to conservation districts to introduce herself.

Payne reported that NRCS received 102 funding applications this cycle, with 59 passing eligibility review, including 17 located in Multnomah County. Staff are currently completing project ranking, with an internal deadline of May 1. Payne stated she could provide additional information on projects within West Multnomah County at a future meeting.

Riggsby then invited any additional public comment. Ronda Zakocs indicated she did not have comments. The public comment period was closed.

5. Treasurer's Reportⁱⁱⁱ

Oliver presented the Treasurer's Report and noted that the financial reports largely speak for themselves. He highlighted that the year-to-date net fund balance currently shows a small deficit of approximately \$2,553, which reflects a payment made in advance for the following month's rent. When adjusted for that timing difference, the District is approximately \$2,500 positive.

Oliver reminded the Board that May 15 is the next major property tax turnover date, which typically captures about one third of the remaining non discounted tax balance.

Clarenbach added that grant revenue remains low year to date, with about \$22,000 received so far, but the District expects roughly \$150,000 in reimbursements in the near term and additional grant revenue later in the fiscal year. He also noted that TSCC anticipates property tax revenue may come in somewhat below earlier forecasts.

6. Staff Work Plan Presentations^{iv}

Jogerst introduced the annual staff work plan presentations and explained that the purpose of the discussion was to give the Board a clearer understanding of staff priorities and planned activities for the coming year. She noted that the presentations also help illustrate how individual projects and programs align with the District's long-range business plan and overall conservation mission.

District Manager Work Plan – Jogerst

Jogerst introduced the staff work plan presentations by reiterating the District mission of providing resources, information, and expertise to help improve air and water quality, wildlife habitat, and soil health. She described the coming year as a period of organizational stabilization following recent staffing transitions. Key priorities include developing the next long range business plan before the end of the fiscal year, strengthening financial management and tracking systems in coordination with the Budget and Fiscal Manager, and completing full implementation and evaluation of the District Financial Assistance Program. Jogerst also highlighted organizational priorities focused on staff wellbeing and workplace cohesion,

including reviewing the employee handbook, supporting professional development, and establishing shared team agreements.

Budget and Fiscal Manager Work Plan – Clarenbach

Clarenbach outlined priorities focused on improving financial processes, reporting, and long-term fiscal sustainability. He described plans to streamline the budget development process, improve forecasting accuracy, and ensure compliance with TSCC requirements and Oregon budget law. Additional priorities include evaluating alternatives to the current accounts payable system to reduce costs and staff time, expanding financial reporting tools for staff and program managers, and strengthening grant management to improve reimbursement timelines.

Clarenbach also noted the importance of diversifying revenue sources as property tax growth slows, updating financial policies and procedures, and supporting HR functions such as benefits review, staff onboarding, and compliance with employment regulations.

Outreach and Communications Work Plan – Greene

Greene described outreach and communications priorities centered on continuing major District programs and improving public engagement. Key projects include organizing Soil School, the District annual meeting, and other community events such as Weed Watchers and wildfire preparedness workshops. Greene also discussed maintaining the District website and ensuring ongoing ADA accessibility compliance, expanding communications through social media, email newsletters, and neighborhood association publications, and identifying community influencers who can help amplify District messages. Additional priorities include supporting outreach for Stormwater Stars and District grant programs, including promoting and sharing stories from Splash and Ripple grant recipients to highlight community conservation efforts.

Soil Conservation Work Plan – Gall

Gall presented priorities focused on expanding soil health programs and strengthening relationships with farmers, particularly on Sauvie Island. He discussed outreach efforts such as farmer breakfasts designed to build community and share information about conservation practices. Gall also highlighted ongoing work to promote the District soil health rebate program and reduce barriers for landowners implementing conservation practices. Additional priorities include exploring equipment sharing options such as a no till seed drill to support small farms, continuing collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture on compliance programs, and implementing water quality monitoring efforts in partnership with local stakeholders and agencies.

Forestry Program Work Plan – Taylor

Taylor outlined priorities focused on forest stewardship planning, forest health project implementation, and community education. Much of her work involves developing forest stewardship plans for landowners by assessing forest conditions and recommending

management strategies for different land cover types. She also supports project implementation such as thinning, invasive species management, and replanting to improve forest health and wildfire resilience. Taylor highlighted ongoing collaboration related to the Tualatin Mountain Research Forest management planning process and noted plans to continue educational programming such as teaching at Tree School and hosting community events including the Skyline Ridge Wildfire Ready Workshop.

Habitat Program Work Plan – Kern Korot

Kern Korot presented priorities for the District habitat program, including continued riparian restoration through the Healthy Streams program and work supporting biodiversity across multiple habitat types. Ongoing efforts include maintaining existing restoration sites, pursuing new restoration opportunities in priority watersheds such as Crabapple Creek, and supporting habitat connectivity projects with partner organizations. Additional priorities include monitoring tree health and responding to invasive pests such as emerald ash borer, expanding community science initiatives, and supporting workforce development through partnerships with youth conservation crews. Kern Korot also emphasized collaboration with regional partners and programs that help connect community members with conservation work on the landscape.

Urban Conservation Work Plan – Scipioni

Scipioni presented priorities focused on expanding urban conservation programs and supporting residents implementing sustainable land management practices. Her work includes administering community grant programs, coordinating outreach and technical assistance, and supporting projects that improve watershed health in urban areas. Scipioni highlighted the role of the Ripple Grant program in supporting community led conservation efforts and noted the importance of strengthening partnerships and increasing participation in District programs across urban neighborhoods.

Invasive Species Program Work Plan – Delepine

Delepine outlined priorities for the District invasive species program, including ongoing survey, treatment, and coordination efforts targeting priority invasive plants and emerging pest threats. She highlighted continued collaboration with regional partners and participation in cross jurisdictional working groups that coordinate invasive species management across the Pacific Northwest. Delepine also described work to document treatment strategies and program practices to support consistent and effective invasive species management across District projects.

Stormwater Stars Programs – Dvorsky

Dvorsky described priorities related to urban forestry and stormwater management initiatives, including technical assistance to landowners, partnerships with community organizations, and education programs focused on improving watershed health. Her work includes supporting

programs such as Stormwater Stars and collaborating with partners to implement projects that improve water quality and habitat in developed areas. Dvorsky emphasized the importance of outreach and partnerships in helping residents adopt practices that reduce stormwater impacts and improve urban ecosystem health.

Director and Board Discussion

Following the staff work plan presentations, Riggsby thanked staff for their presentations and highlighted the breadth of conservation work planned for the coming year. Directors expressed appreciation for the presentations and noted the strong connections staff maintain with community members, partners, and landowners throughout the District. Hamer commented that the presentations reflected the core mission and impact of the District's work and congratulated staff on their efforts. Riggsby also noted positive comments shared in the meeting chat and congratulated Delepine on receiving an award from the Oregon Invasive Species Council earlier that day. Delepine thanked Greene and Kern Korot for submitting the nomination.

Spector asked whether the staff presentation slides could be shared with the Board. Jogerst confirmed that staff would distribute the slide deck as a PDF following the meeting. Riggsby also noted that the detailed staff work plans^v previously distributed in the Board packet provide additional information beyond the presentation highlights.

7. Director Check Ins

Riggsby invited directors to share any updates from their areas. No additional updates were offered.

8. Meeting Close

Riggsby announced that the next regular board meeting will take place on April 21 and will coincide with the first Budget Committee meeting. Additional information and materials will be provided to directors ahead of that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

ⁱ Board Meeting agenda, board packet page 1

ⁱⁱ February Meeting minutes, board packet pages 2-6

ⁱⁱⁱ Financial Statements, board packet pages 7-19

^{iv} 2026-2027 Workplan Presentation_Final (pdf)

^v FY 2026 - 2027 Staff Work Plans (pdf)