# West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

## Board Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2026

**Date:** June 16, 2026
**Location:** Online via Zoom

**Directors Present:**
Preeg Riggsby, Sowder, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, Looney, Spector (associate)

**Staff Present:**
Jogerst, Clarenbach, Greene

**Public Present**:
Dean M., Rose N., Rhonda Z.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Preeg Riggsby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was recorded. Directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves. No changes were made to the agenda.

2. **Approval of May 19, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**

Chair Preeg Riggsby called for consideration of the May 19, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Oliver moved to approve, with Looney seconding the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye.

3. **Public Comment**

Dean Moberg introduced himself as the District's new Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) liaison and invited Directors to contact him with issues or concerns they would like communicated to OACD.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Oliver and Clarenbach reviewed the May financial statements and reported that the District remains in a strong financial position as it approaches the end of Fiscal Year 2025–26. Property tax collections and interest earnings continue to track at or slightly above expectations, with approximately $51,000 in property tax revenue and $6,000 in interest received during the month. Personnel expenses remained approximately 2% below budget year-to-date, while higher operating expenses were consistent with expectations and previously discussed staffing and operational transitions.

Oliver reported that overall revenues, expenditures, and net income remain generally on target with the adopted budget. Revenue trends are consistent with prior years, and the District's cash position remains strong heading into the new fiscal year, providing sufficient carryover funds to support operations during the first several months of FY 2026–27. Discussion included several new financial trend and comparison reports developed by Clarenbach to provide additional context on revenue, expenditures, net income, and historical financial performance.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding financial terminology and reporting metrics. Clarenbach explained that "net ordinary income" is another term for net income and represents the difference between revenue and expenses. Directors expressed appreciation for the clarity and accessibility of the financial presentations and noted that the District appears well-positioned to close out the fiscal year.

5. **FY 2026–27 Budget Hearing and Resolution 2026-06-16A**

Chair Preeg Riggsby opened the FY 2026–27 budget hearing and reviewed the budget adoption process. Preeg Riggsby explained that the Budget Committee, consisting of Directors and appointed citizen members, had reviewed the proposed budget in detail at its April 22, 2026 meeting and recommended adoption by the Board. No changes had been made to the approved budget since the Budget Committee meeting.

Preeg Riggsby reviewed the requested Board actions, including adoption of the FY 2026–27 budget in the amount of $4,020,061, consisting of $2,640,754 in appropriated General Fund and contingency amounts and $1,379,307 in reserve and unappropriated funds. The Board also considered imposing the District's permanent tax rate of $0.075 per $1,000 of assessed value.

Jogerst reminded Directors that a corrected version of Resolution 2026-06-16A had been distributed prior to the meeting. Clarenbach explained that the revision corrected a $100 error in the total budget amount and that no other changes had been made.

**Motion:** Looney moved to adopt Resolution 2026-06-16A authorizing the District's budget, creating expenditure appropriations, setting the tax, and imposing the tax for Fiscal Year 2026–27. **Second:** Oliver. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye. Motion passed 6–0.

**Motion:** Looney moved to adopt the District's permanent tax rate of $0.075 per $1,000 of assessed value for Fiscal Year 2026–27. **Second:** Oliver. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye. Motion passed 6–0.

6. **Prospective Associate Director Consideration**

Preeg Riggsby introduced Ronda Zakocs, who had attended several recent Board meetings and met with District leadership to learn more about Associate Director service. Zakocs shared her interest in conservation, describing her long-term restoration work along Vermont Creek, previous participation in a District-supported restoration project, and her family's management of a small woodland property in Yamhill County. She also discussed her professional background in facilitation, strategic planning, evaluation, and organizational development.

Preeg Riggsby noted that Zakocs' experience could be valuable as the District begins updating its Long-Range Business Plan.

**Motion:** Looney moved to appoint Ronda Zakocs as an Associate Director. **Second:** Topaz. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye. Motion passed 6–0.

The Board welcomed Zakocs as a new Associate Director. Preeg Riggsby also welcomed Rose Newberry and provided information about Board and Associate Director service, including opportunities to participate in committee work and the upcoming Long-Range Business Plan process.

**6. Resolutions 2026-06-16B and 2026-06-16C – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Greene presented recommendations developed through the District's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Greene explained that a review of committee operations identified several requirements associated with maintaining a Board-created standing committee, including formal membership designation, quorum requirements, and public meeting requirements. Committee members concluded that a working group structure would provide greater flexibility while continuing to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts throughout the organization.

Greene emphasized that the proposed changes were not intended to reduce the District's commitment to DEI work. Existing goals in the Long-Range Business Plan, staff work plans, and organizational priorities would remain unchanged. The proposed transition would allow staff and Board participants to meet more frequently and focus on implementation of DEI-related projects and initiatives.

Board members discussed the history of the committee, future opportunities for participation, and the importance of continuing to integrate DEI principles into District programs and operations. Hamer expressed appreciation for the work completed by Greene and the committee and noted that the proposal accurately reflected committee discussions.

Chair Preeg Riggsby thanked Greene and Jogerst for their leadership and thoughtful review of the committee structure.

**Motion:** Hamer moved to adopt Resolution 2026-06-16B dissolving Resolution 2016-02-04 and formally dissolving the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Standing Committee. **Second:** Looney. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye. Motion passed 6–0.

The Board then considered Resolution 2026-06-16C establishing the framework for continued DEI efforts through a working group structure. **Motion:** Oliver moved to adopt Resolution 2026-06-16C. **Second:** Looney. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye. Motion passed 6–0.

**7. Resolutions 2026-06-16D and 2026-06-16E – Reserve for Future Funds**

Clarenbach and Jogerst presented recommendations regarding the District’s Reserve for Future Expenditures. Staff explained that the existing reserve had originally been established in anticipation of a potential land acquisition partnership opportunity that ultimately did not require District funding. Staff recommended replacing the existing reserve structure with a more flexible Reserve Fund that could support future capital investments and other Board-authorized expenditures.

Discussion focused on the distinction between the proposed Reserve Fund and the District’s operating reserves. Directors discussed long-term financial planning, potential future vehicle replacement needs, and Board oversight of reserve expenditures. Staff clarified that any future use of reserve funds would continue to require Board approval.

**Motion:** Hamer moved to adopt Resolution 2026-06-16D dissolving Resolution 2025-06-17A and establishing a Reserve Fund structure. **Second:** Oliver. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye. Motion passed 6–0.

The Board then considered Resolution 2026-06-16E related to management and use of the Reserve Fund.

**Motion:** Oliver moved to adopt Resolution 2026-06-16E. **Second:** Looney. **Vote:** Sowder, Preeg Riggsby, Topaz, Hamer, Oliver, and Looney voted aye. Motion passed 6–0.

**8. District Manager Updates**

Jogerst reported that work on the District's Long-Range Business Plan update is beginning, with consultant Amy Stork scheduled to facilitate a kickoff discussion at the July Board meeting. A planning committee consisting of staff and Board representatives has been established and will guide the process, with opportunities for Board input throughout the project.

Jogerst provided updates on several organizational initiatives, including development of a proposal to purchase a no-till seed drill, continued refinement of District Financial Assistance Program products, and exploration of a more structured framework for long-term partner funding agreements. Staff will research how similar programs are administered by other conservation districts and seek Board input as the work progresses.

Jogerst also reported that recruitment will begin for the budgeted part-time Administrative Specialist position and provided an update on the District's contract review project. In consultation with the Special Districts Association of Oregon, staff are updating contract templates and procedures to improve consistency and ensure compliance before the fall contracting season. Directors indicated that brief updates on the project would be sufficient unless Board action is needed.

Jogerst encouraged Directors to participate in the newly formed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group and welcomed feedback on future topics of interest for Board discussion and staff presentations.

**9. Director Check-Ins**

Spector shared that this would be his final Board meeting as an Associate Director due to a recent move. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve with the District and thanked the Board and staff for their work. Directors thanked Spector for his service and contributions and encouraged him to remain involved through future District events and annual meetings.

Moberg thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the meeting and expressed appreciation for the District's financial reporting and use of data visualizations to communicate financial information.

Sowder inquired about recent Multnomah County planning efforts referenced in staff reports. Jogerst provided a brief update on the Multnomah County Climate Action Plan revision process and noted that staff would continue to monitor related planning efforts and share information as it becomes available.

Preeg Riggsby reported that she recently concluded 25 years of service with the Tryon Creek Watershed Council. She shared updates on discussions between the Tryon Creek and Oswego Lake Watershed Councils regarding the potential formation of a larger regional watershed organization. Preeg Riggsby noted that the effort could expand watershed council coverage into portions of western Multnomah County that currently lack representation and stated that she will continue supporting the effort through her role with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils.

**10. Announcements**

Preeg Riggsby reminded Directors that the next Board meeting will be held virtually on July 21, 2026, and will include a kickoff discussion for the Long-Range Business Plan update process with consultant Amy Stork. Directors were also encouraged to reserve October 30, 2026, for the Long-Range Business Plan retreat.

The Board discussed its summer meeting schedule and considered whether to hold a meeting or social gathering in August. Directors expressed support for maintaining the District's practice of taking one month off during the summer and discussed the possibility of holding an in-person social gathering in conjunction with a future Board meeting.

By consensus, the Board agreed not to hold an August Board meeting and to resume regular meetings in September. Staff and Board leadership will explore options for a potential in-person gathering later in the year and provide additional information to the Board.

**11. Adjournment**

Chair Preeg Riggsby adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:06 p.m.