



Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2025

**Directors:** Bill Hammel Stan Shephard Shawn Sorensen  
Bob Krein Phil Kaser

**Directors Absent:** Jeff Crump Larry Powell

**Staff:** Shilah Olson Dana Woods Dean Dark  
Drake Gilbert Allie Marker Scott Susi  
Ryan Bessette Abbie Forrest

**Staff via Teleconference:** Samantha Filbin Karen Lamson

**Guests:**

Wasco SWCD: Pat Davis, Director Emeritus  
Wasco SWCD: Ken Bailey, Director Emeritus  
AKS Engineering: Darrin Eckman, Professional Engineer

**Guests via Teleconference:**

OSU Extension: Jacob Powell, County Agent

**1:00 PM Call to Order**

Bill called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Shilah noted several changes to the agenda: Jacob Powell's update will be during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Darrin with AKS Consultants update will be at 1:30 and Scott will be providing a weed crew update at the beginning of the Updates section.

**Minutes:** Bill asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October regular board meeting minutes. None were made. *Shawn moved to approve the October regular board meeting minutes as presented; Phil seconded. Motion carried with Bill, Shawn, Bob, Stan and Phil voting in favor.*

**Treasurer's Report:** Shilah reviewed the October Treasurer's Report, noting beginning balance, income, expenses, account and fund balances. *Shawn moved to receive the Treasurer's Report for October; Phil seconded. Motion carried with Bill, Shawn, Bob, Stan and Phil voting in favor.*

The loans payable/loans receivable report was also included for information.

**Public Comment (5 Min. limit/person)-**

Due to a scheduling conflict, Jacob Powell from OSU Extension gave his update during this portion of the meeting. He reported that he is working on three On-Farm research trials. He is working with OSU on creating an online / on demand On-Farm 1<sup>st</sup> Aid / Farm Safety Course. He noted that on November 18-20, the Hood River SWCD is partnering with OSU to host an ODA pesticide exam prep class. December 5<sup>th</sup> will be a webinar option for ODA pesticide training.

### **Action Items**

**a. District Cost Share Program:** Abbie presented two District Cost Share applications:

**T. Aschoff** – Dead/hazard tree removal. This application is for the removal of dead and hazard trees on approximately 30 acres which are a result of the Miller Rd. fire. The applicant is also looking at doing a small grant application to cover some of the cost. The amount requested is \$6488.

**Black Rock Grazing Cooperative** – The applicant is requesting cost share assistance to seed approximately 1.89 acres of fire line and trails where soil was disturbed during the Black Rock fire. The amount requested is \$2000.

Shawn asked about the seed application rate per acre. Ryan responded that broadcast seeding is typically around 20 pounds per acre.

*Phil moved to approve both district cost share applications as presented; Bob seconded. Motion carried with Bill, Shawn, Bob, Stan and Phil voting in favor.*

**b. Updated CWDG MOU with Wasco County** – This update revises the existing IGA to include an expanded scope of work and additional grant funding that the District will be receiving from Wasco County. These additional funds are a result of the contract cancellation between Wasco County and Wamic Fire, as well as some funds that were shifted from MCFR to SWCD in the initial budget process that wasn't reflected in our original MOU. Shawn *made a motion to adopt the updated CWDG IGA with Wasco County as presented; Bob seconded. Motion carried with Bill, Shawn, Bob, Stan and Phil voting in favor.*

**c. District Health Insurance – Options for Spouse & Family Premiums** – Shilah provided a recap of the summary document that was sent out prior to the meeting. The recap included a review of what other agencies are doing in terms of health insurance premium coverage for spouse and dependent coverage. Phil asked if there is a deadline to make a decision on this. Shilah responded that there is no deadline, a decision could be made anytime. If the Board needs additional time to review, this could potentially be looked at during the budget process. Discussion ensued. Shawn *motioned that the District make a 75% contribution for spouse and dependent health insurance premiums; Bob seconded. Motion carried with Bill, Shawn, Bob, Stan and Phil voting in favor.*

**d. Back Lot Expansion & Shop Options** – Darrin Eckman with AKS Engineering presented a revised building and site plan based on Board feedback from the previous meeting. Discussion ensued. Additional feedback was provided by the Board regarding the pesticide storage area. Stan suggested that staking out the building location and size would add helpful perspective.

## Updates

Scott gave an update to the Board, highlighting the work that the weed crew has been doing over the past nine months. He noted that they are currently working on an Oregon State Weed Board grant, targeting five species of noxious weeds in Wasco County: Ravenna Grass, Yellow Flag Iris, Dalmatian Toadflax, Rush Skeleton Weed and Perennial Pepperweed. Some of the other grants and contracts that were worked on over the summer include the CWDG grant on Juniper Flat, a new USFS Mt. Hood National Forest contract, a small USFS Scenic Area contract, a BLM Grant that covered the Deschutes River corridor from Pelton Dam to Maupin area, a Friends of the Columbia Gorge contract in the Rowena burn area, Dufur Cemetery contract work as well as The Port of The Dalles right of way work. Scott noted that Parks & Rec and The Corps of Engineers have also reached out about the District doing some work for them.

Shilah proposed tabling the rest of the updates unless there are any questions or anyone would like an update on a particular item.

Phil asked if there were any updates regarding the Solar Development discussion. Shilah responded that there are no updates, and that it was on the agenda as a continuing discussion item. There will hopefully be more information to share by the next Board meeting.

- a. **Next Meeting** – The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM, at the USDA Service Center and via Zoom. There will be an ODA-led Lower Deschutes Ag Water Quality Management Area lite review at 10:30 am prior to the board meeting; lunch will be provided.
- b. **15mile Managed Underground Storage (MUS) & Water Budget**– tabled
- c. **Mosier Groundwater Restoration & Mosier Million #2** – tabled
- d. **Solar Development Discussion** - tabled
- e. **Highline Ditch Elimination** – tabled
- f. **Fires: CWDG Grant, 2024 Larch Creek Planning, 2025 Recap** – tabled
- g. **East Cascade Oak Partnership-CR Surveys, Block Grant, USFS, ODFW** – tabled
- h. **Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program** – tabled
- i. **Updating Long Range Plan & SWCD Employee Handbook** – Ongoing.

## Agency Reports

- a. **NRCS** – There was no update from NRCS due to the Government shut down.
- b. **FSA** – There was no update from FSA due to the Government shut down.
- c. **OSU Extension** – Update provided during the Public Comment section of the meeting.
- d. **Wy'East RC&D** – Robert was not in attendance.

## Informational Reports

- a. **Internal Financial Review** – none

**b. Facilities Status** – none

**c. Watershed Council Updates** – none

**District Manager Report**

**a. Work Plan Progress & Grant Status** – Distributed prior to the meeting. Grant status report will need to be updated to reflect the revised Wasco County IGA funding as well as the previous MCFR funds.

**b. Activity Reports and Schedules** – No activity reports were presented; however, they are available for review upon request. The schedule was distributed with the agenda.

**Adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 2:45 pm**

DRAFT