



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

December 10, 2025

**Directors Present:** Chair Nathan Baumgartner  
Director Kate Baumgartner  
Director Tom Black

**Staff Present:** District Manager/Conservation Planner Rhonda Black

**Agencies Present:** USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist  
Bradley Stokes

**Others Present:** None

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The Chair N. Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**FISCAL PROVIDER REPORT:**

**In Fiscal Provider Graham's absence, the District Manager explained the financial reports for the month ending November 30, 2025.**

Page 1 - The Balance Sheet. It shows total current assets of \$41,433.46 and total liabilities & Equity of \$41,433.46.

Page 2 - Check Register - General Checking - started the month with \$48,623.58 and ended the month with \$40,539.22. Savings with \$68.47.

Registers - Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable.

Accounts receivable total funds submitted for payment were \$0.00 and accounts payable were \$0.00. The total prepaid insurance balance was \$166.50.

The Statement of Activity and Cash Flow Report – The top part of the report shows income and expenses which reflects the cash flow of funds coming in and going out of the district's bank account. That is going to give the district a net ordinary income for each grant. In the next section will be the Admin Income and Admin Expense. That is the cash that's not moving around physically, but transferring between the grants. It's not moving out, it's just moving between the grants, and that's where "other income" happens, and when you put those together, you get your "net income".

There are two categories:

1. General Category – Function of the district, what it does, for its primary purpose.
2. Project Program Category – Programs and projects the district is doing/working on that isn't the district's general function, but are added to the district. They aren't capacity building.

Every column represents a funding source and/or grant.

Page 3 – Statement of Activity and Cash Flow Report – General Category:

So far this year the district has had \$50,701.21 of General income. So far this year the District has had \$31,003.76 of General expenses. The General net income for this year is \$19,963.24 and the General cash balance for this year is \$44,152.23.

Page 4 – Statement of Activity and Cash Flow Report – Project Program Category:

So far this year the District has had a total income of all Project Programs is \$0.00. With a total of Project expenses of \$4,471.85 leaving a negative net income so far this year of \$4,737.64 and negative cash balance of \$3,544.54. You might be wondering why you would have a negative figure there? That's because a lot of the times you can't request the funds from the granting agency until you have completed the grant work and submitted the final report, so you sit on those negative numbers until everything in the grant is complete and you receive those final grant funds from the granting agency.

Statement of Activity and Cash Flow Report - Total combined Total Income: \$50,701.21 and total combined Expenses: \$35,475.61. Leaving a net income of \$15,225.60 and leaving a combined cash balance of \$40,607.69 (actual cash balance in the bank) which matches your bank balance on page 1. The negative numbers at the bottom of the page represent grants where we need to get reimbursed for those funds. Once the projects are closed, we can get those monies reimbursed to the District.

Page 5 - Monthly Comparison – As of November 30<sup>th</sup> – Income: \$0.00 and total expenses: \$8,577.58. Net income of negative \$8,577.58 and a cash balance of \$40,607.69.

Page 6 through 10 – Reports that are due, PTO balances, and beginning of Individual Grant and/or funding source details.

The District Manager noticed the ODA Capacity grant was missing the reporting date.

Director T. Black arrived at 5:07 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS & TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUDIT**

Chair N. Baumgartner made a motion, 2nd by Director T. Black to approve the bills and the November 2025 Treasurer's Report. The motion **unanimously passed** (N. Baumgartner, K. Baumgartner, T. Black).

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair N. Baumgartner made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director T. Black to approve the November 13, 2025 Business Meeting minutes. The motion **unanimously passed** (N. Baumgartner, K. Baumgartner, T. Black).

### **AGENCY & ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

#### **USDA NRCS District Conservationist Bradley Stokes:**

Bradley Stokes joined the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

- *NRCS seems to always flux and change, but what's happening now is definitely the most extreme change, and that's all it's all just preliminary. Unsure if any of this is really accurate, but the kind of nuts and bolts of farm bill programs, 122 active contracts, and we're still loading applications.*
- *A big thing at the end of every year is expiring contracts and we had a bunch. It was a nightmare. Expiring contracts are one of the few things that can really get you in big trouble in the NRCS and we whittled them*

down to three. Several were the older kind contracts, and when they age, because of the obligation money is set in stone when you get several years inflation, prices are different. Things like that can really put the producer in hardship and not assistance.

- *Drastic changes to EQIP and CSP. The foundation of the activities in CSP are called enhancements, with the idea being that everything was already in good shape when a producer signed up for the program, because CSP is sort of that second level of land ownership, stewardship, meaning activities are enhanced. Unfortunately, the talk is that these enhancements are going to be done away with, and it's just going to be based practices like EQIP, whereas CSP used to be a special forest and improvement for degraded hardwoods, so very specific.*
- *Now we're just going to be contracting and obligating for forest and improvement, much like EQIP, and I don't really know what that means for cost share amounts for EQIP versus CSP. I don't know if they are going to get even further away in price or if they're going to line up and be equal now.*
- *We have historically done field visits and planning based upon approximately forty individual resource concerns such as nutrient pathogen loss to groundwater and things like that, and now our agency chief and national leadership are wanting to set those resource concerns back to about ten.*
- *NRCS is still about soil conservation, public safety, and fire prevention and reduction measures.*
- *Our big Umpqua Oak CIS was specifically geographic areas we'd identified. The CIS system as we know it is changing a lot. Each individual county basin got a pot of money and the DC and program staff negotiated so that each DC and their CIS worked together to decide on which great project was funded, and now that whole system is going away. Our Umpqua Oak CIS is merging with Eugene and Tangent. Now the CIS is open to the entire Douglas County for forest management plans.*
- *The way everything is changing, who knows what's on the horizon.*
- *The Local Foods, which is the Conservation Implementation Strategy we had, which was kind of the catchall, from small berry farmers to small goat producers, vegetable crops, etc. That's a statewide thing. Every landowner in the entire state is competing for that same pot of money now, and EQIP has a pasture and range component specific Conservation Implementation Strategy that is also statewide. So, those are two programs available to our folks in Reedsport and statewide.*
- *I'd worked on the Tidegate CIS and written some of that and was getting ready to submit it, but have been told NRCS isn't taking new Conservation Implementation Strategies right now.*
- *Maybe in future years, the CIS system might change even more and be more like other states. That's just speculation though.*
- *The local work group meeting is planned for January 15, 2026 at the Port of Umpqua. We have saved our spot there. We're still going to have one, but it seemed like NRCS might be backing off from work group meetings. We'll be discussing this at our Basin meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> to decide things, like if we're still going to be doing them in the same capacity. Not even sure if I'm allowed to show up at the local work group meeting, but we're going to be having a local work group meeting for sure.*

## **STAFF REPORT:**

### **Conservation Technician/District Manager Rhonda Black:**

December 10, 2025

- **OWEB:**
  - 2023-2025 District Operations Capacity Grant –
    - *OSU/Umpqua SWCD January 17, 2025 Tree Pruning Workshop flyers printed, distributed, and posted.*
    - *Updated website with information on soil testing, information where landowners can get water tested. Updated with information about director recruitment.*
    - *Attended compliance visit in Scottsburg with ODA Water Quality Planner Pietrzak on December 9<sup>th</sup>.*

- *First 6-month reporting for the SOW grant due in January.*
  - *OWEB Small Grants Program:*
    - *OWEB Small Grants Status:*
      - *Otter-Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion –*
        - *Monitoring report due July 31, 2027.*
      - *Elk Creek Riparian OWEB Small Grant –*
        - *Monitoring report due July 31, 2027.*
      - *Providence Creek Runoff Management –*
        - *Monitoring reporting due April 8, 2027.*
      - *Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Phase 1 –*
        - *Heavy use areas at the gates and elk jumps complete. Final payment made to landowner.*
        - *Completion reporting due: April 16, 2026.*
      - *Costa Ranch Runoff Management –*
        - *Grant approved by OWEB on November 22, 2024 with \$15,000 for gutters, downspouts, drainage line, geotextile fabric, and gravel for the heavy use protection area. In contact with both Mr. Costa and the gravel hauler in an effort to prepare for stockpiling 18 ten-yard loads of gravel for the heavy use area at the barn. Once everything is determined, we can request the 60% OWEB advance to cover the cost of the gravel for this project with implementation to start occurring this summer. Landowner will prepare the site by grading for the heavy use area, trenching and installing the downspout drain lines, installing gutters and downspouts on the barn, and installing the piping for the livestock watering system.*
        - *Answered questions and provided information via email, text, and telephone.*
        - *End date: November 1, 2026.*
        - *Completion reporting due: December 31, 2026.*
    - *Workshops/Classes –*
      - *Fruit tree pruning workshop scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2026 at the Elkton Community Education Center from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.*
      - *Oregon Agricultural Trust Farm & Ranch Management Workshop Series - March 5, 2026 at the Elkton Community Education Center Library from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (SWCD hosting)*
  - *OWEB TA Grant:*
    - *Re-submitted grant to OWEB on August 4, 2025 with photos, updated maps, additional letters of support, and by addressing questions from the OWEB Review Team.*
    - *Recommended by OWEB Review Team to “not fund” as of October 2025. We will have to find out what is causing this application to be kicked out of the funding process as answering questions was clearly not good enough.*
- *BLM:*
  - *BLM Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination grant, “Umpqua Noxious Weed Control” for both contractor and myself. Matt Ruwaldt Consulting and Umpqua SWCD worked with BLM after project was approved by the BLM RAC for \$24,000 to provide requested updates to the BLM.*
  - *We have an agreement as of September 26<sup>th</sup>. Then the government shut down. Our first reporting period ended September 30<sup>th</sup> and is due December 31<sup>st</sup>.*

- **PARTNERSHIPS:**
  - Umpqua 7, Coos 4, Mid-Coast 3 OWEB Small Grant Teams –
    - Umpqua 7 –
      - *Working with Lee Russell with Elk Creek Watershed Coalition.*
        - *Provided a letter of support to the Elk Creek Watershed Coalition for the Umpqua Small Grant Team for their OWEB Small Grant Team Leader Support Grant on August 13<sup>th</sup>.*
        - *Elk Creek Watershed Coalition was recommended for funding for the Team Leader grant of \$20,000 for the biennium. Umpqua SWCD is supposed to be written in on the contracted services line to write brochures and fact sheets for the outreach, but found out that this wasn't done. Will be contacting Lee to find out how our funding is hidden in the budget for the work we're supposed to do. We will need an MOU.*
    - Coos 4 –
      - *Attended kick-off meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>.*
      - *Signed paperwork November 12<sup>th</sup>.*
    - Mid-Coast 3 –
      - *Waiting to hear back from Lincoln SWCD as to when the current team members meeting will be.*
  - Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers –
    - *PUR meeting – Attended November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Next meeting scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>.*
    - *Not sure when public tour of Glover site will occur.*
    - *Tour held on November 20<sup>th</sup> with SWCD, PUR, ODFW, and Mr. Glover. Umpqua SWCD provided information and background about the project to ODFW and Washington DFW.*
    - *Glover Lands Estuary Enhancement Project – Landowner working on fencing and watering system installation.*
  - Providence Creek Area Updates:
    - Providence Creek Tide Gates –
      - *In a holding pattern due to previous Port Commission decision to back out of project.*
      - *Had meeting with Porior Engineering on December 6<sup>th</sup> who felt that we could get the fish passage plan done while we're in limbo on the project. We will need to find funding to complete this portion of the project.*
      - *Met with Port Manager on December 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed the fish passage plan. Since the MOU is still in place it was decided to go forward with finding funding to get the plan done so we would have some of the groundwork out of the way as the tide gate replacement project still needs to occur. The Port will provide a letter of support, possibly some in-kind match in the form of employee time toward the passage plan. Will contact engineer to follow-up with planning.*
    - Leeds Island Park and Restoration Project –
      - *Matt Ruwaldt and I met with the Reedsport Parks and Beautification Committee on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the project. The Committee is still very supportive and would like to move forward with the project. Some of the Committee members thought they might be able to make contact with Mark Holiday. Will be following up with Matt upon his return to the Oregon Coast.*

- Douglas SWCD – No new news.
- Douglas Weed Management Area – Douglas SWCD working on scheduling a meeting for either the end of January or beginning of February.
- DEQ Umpqua TMDL Implementation – Likely meeting in January.
- Elk Creek Watershed Coalition –
  - Did not attend the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting due to workload and travel time, but did provide information to the coalition in regard to questions they had about what special districts are. Requested they provide an online option for those who have considerable travel time in order to attend the meetings and they said they would ask the library if the coalition could use the library equipment and software to provide that service.
- Forest Service –
  - Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative – Next meeting will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Hydro Breakfast Meeting – Missed the December meeting, and planning on attending the January meeting.
- Oregon Agricultural Trust – Assisting OAT with a farm and ranch financial planning management workshop series for agricultural producers on March 5, 2026.
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) – No new news.
- Oregon Conservation Education Association Network (OCEAN) – CONNECT scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Seaside at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.
- Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association – Next meeting December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network – Attended the Soil Health Network Regional Hub Soil Health Training series on November 19<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Soil Health Network has covered the cost of this training.
- Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative – No new news for our area.
- Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission – Umpqua SWCD will host their 2-day meeting in August 2026.
- Smith/Umpqua/Dunes Stewardship Group – No new news.
- Umpqua Oaks Partnership – No new news.
- Umpqua Native Plant Partnership –
  - Planning a meeting with Morgan Fay regarding Glover Project Planting Plan.
- USDA/NRCS – Assisting NRCS District Conservationist Stokes with the local workgroup meeting planned for January 2026 in Reedsport.

- TRAININGS:

- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

- Site Visits Completed:
  - Compliance visit with ODA in Scottsburg on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- TA Provided:
  - Oar Creek landowner via telephone on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Otter Creek landowner via email on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Site Visits Scheduled:
  - Reedsport – April 1, 2026.

Ongoing TA:

- 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.*

- *Providence Creek – Landowner called about fill and removal, levy repair, fencing, etc. Will follow up when Consultant is available.*
- *Possible in-stream work, riparian buffer and grant for project at Wild Azalea Vineyards.*
  - *Working on a list of neighboring landowners so contacts can be made for neighbors on Hanes Creek to include them in grant work. ODFW on-board with project.*
- *Ruwaldt Consulting – Provided a list of projects that we'll need to continue to work on and projects to begin working on this winter.*
- *Don Porior Engineering – Visited with engineer via telephone to discuss Glover bridge and Providence Creek Tidegates on December 6<sup>th</sup>.*
- **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, website.*
  - *Long Range Business Plan updates.*
  - *Took holiday on Thanksgiving Day on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Took a few days of leave during Thanksgiving week.*

## **DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

None.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **1. Director Recruitment – Discussion**

Discussion commenced regarding possible leads in Zone 2 and Zone 3.

Discussion about possible directors based upon spending one year as an associate director and having a conservation plan with the SWCD in lieu of the ten acre land ownership requirement.

### **2. Long Range Plan – Discussion**

The District Manager provided copies of the 2020-2025 long range plan and the 2025-2030 long range draft plan within the editing phase requesting the Directors review both plans at their leisure and to bring suggestions back at the next few meetings for updating the plan. Continuing to work on the long-range plan.

## **FUNDING COMMITTEE**

Reports and follow up to items.

No new news.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ORS 192.660 (2) (i) and ORS 192.660 (8) to evaluate the performance of an officer, employee or staff member

Chair N. Baumgartner closed the regular meeting, and citing ORS 192.660 (2) (i) and ORS 192.660 (8) to evaluate the performance of an officer, employee or staff member, went into the executive session at 5:29 p.m. At 5:39 p.m. Chair N. Baumgartner closed the executive session and returned the meeting to the regular session.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair N. Baumgartner at 5:55 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next business meeting for the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is scheduled for January 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. by Go-To-Meeting teleconference and/or by computer, tablet or smartphone.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhonda Black  
District Manager/Conservation Planner  
Recorder