



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

May 14, 2026

Directors Present:

Chair Nathan Baumgartner
Director Kate Baumgartner
Director Tom Black

Staff Present:

District Manager/Conservation Planner Rhonda Black

Agencies Present:

USDA NRCS District Conservationist Bradley Stokes
ODA Regional Water Quality Specialist Southwest Region Beth Pietrzak
ODA SWCD Program Lead Karin Stutzman

Others Present:

Fiscal Provider Tanya Graham
Michael (unknown caller)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Chair N. Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

FISCAL PROVIDER REPORT:

Fiscal Provider Graham explained the financial reports for the month ending April 30, 2026 (April included the numbers from March as part of the reporting).

Page 1 - The Balance Sheet. It shows total current assets of \$62,181.54 and total liabilities & Equity of \$62,181.54.

Page 2 - Check Register - General Checking - started the month with \$35,904.79 and ended the month with \$53,985.44. Savings with \$68.47.

Registers - Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable.

Accounts receivable total funds submitted for payment were \$5,997.60 and accounts payable were \$0.00.

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 \$101,412.75 of General income. So far this year the District has had \$71,857.62 of General expenses. The General net income for this year is \$30,042.22 and the General cash balance for this year is \$52,387.68.

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 \$12,074.84. With a total of Project expenses of \$5,117.02 leaving a net income so far this year of \$6,470.73 and a cash balance of \$1,666.23.

There are times when there is a negative figure and 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: \$113,487.59 and total combined Expenses: \$36,512.95. Leaving a net income of \$36,512.95 and leaving a combined cash balance of \$54,053.91 (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 April 30th – Income: \$25,290.50 and total expenses: \$7,256.12. Net income of \$18,034.38 and a cash balance of \$54,053.91.

Page 6 through 9 – Reports that are due, PTO balances, and beginning of Individual Grant and/or funding source details.

APPROVAL OF BILLS & TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUDIT

Chair N. Baumgartner made a motion, 2nd by Director K. Baumgartner to approve the bills and the March 2026 Treasurer's Report. The motion **unanimously passed** (N. Baumgartner, K. Baumgartner, T. Black).

Chair N. Baumgartner made a motion, 2nd by Director K. Baumgartner to approve the bills and the March 2026 Treasurer's Report. The motion **unanimously passed** (N. Baumgartner, K. Baumgartner, T. Black).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair N. Baumgartner made a motion, 2nd by Director K. Baumgartner to approve the March 12, 2026 Business Meeting minutes. The motion **unanimously passed** (N. Baumgartner, K. Baumgartner, T. Black).

Fiscal Provider Graham exited the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

AGENCY & ORGANIZATION REPORTS

ODA SWCD Program Lead Karin Stutzman:

- Provided information about the CONNECT Conference that occurred in April.

- Provided information about the new AgWQ and OSU agriculture management planning tool which will all be online and will use commonly used language. It will take about a year to get a prototype out for practices and it will help District staff all over the state to have the tool available to them.
- Jill Smedstat with Jackson SWCD and OCEAN will be working on quarterly ag-sharing sessions for technical assistance staff with SWCDs which will be used for onboarding new SWCD staff.

ODA Regional Water Quality Specialist Southwest Region Beth Pietrzak:

- Working with Umpqua SWCD District Manager/Planner with the ODA Scope of Work tasks.
- We now have a six-month reporting period with the most recent period coming up in July.
- Umpqua SWCD District Manager/Planner gave a good presentation at the NRCS Local Work Group Meeting.
- Want to make everyone fully aware of the Umpqua TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads for streams) project going on and that input from the community is coming in and appreciated.

USDA NRCS District Conservationist Bradley Stokes:

- Had the NRCS/SWCD Local Work Group Meeting in Reedsport and we had lots of engagement from one landowner.
- We have a more open format with the Conservation Implementation Strategy.
- Not sure what funding pools will look like and will let the SWCD know when we have more information.
- Considering it an overall success at LWG Meeting with the CIS.
- We have 168 applications including 1 beef cattle ranch.
- Farm Bill got approved, but we don't really know what that means.
- It's been a crazy year with a lot of work going on.

STAFF REPORT:

Conservation Technician/District Manager Rhonda Black:

May 14, 2026

- *OWEB:*
 - *2023-2025 District Operations Capacity Grant –*
 - *OWEB/ODA Capacity Grant Feedback - Multiple Meeting Dates & Times. Important! Information on SWCD Website.*
 - *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 –*
 - *Completion reporting done April 15th and fully through the process.*
 - *Monitoring reporting due April 20, 2028.*
 - *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 –*
 - *OSU/SWCD Soil Fertility Workshop planned for Saturday, July 18th at the Elkton Community Education Center.*
- *OWEB TA Grant:*
 - *Will be resubmitting grant. Possibly breaking it down into smaller, more manageable grants. For instance, one for the Scholfield Creek Head of Tide area (livestock exclusion fencing, riparian plantings, farm bridges, heavy use areas, and the tidegate on Scholfield Creek). Then another, possibly at a much later date, for the fish passage bridges on Providence Creek and Decker Point.*
- *BLM:*
 - *BLM Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination grant, “Umpqua Noxious Weed Control” for both contractor and myself for \$24,000. Will be meeting with the BLM soon to discuss how they would like to see the grant implemented.*
- *PARTNERSHIPS:*
 - *Umpqua 7, Coos 4, Mid-Coast 3 OWEB Small Grant Teams –*
 - *Umpqua 7 –*
 - *Working with Lee Russell with Elk Creek Watershed Coalition.*
 - *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. We will need an MOU, but do have an updated budget with each of our responsibilities hand-written in, so this is helpful.*
 - *Coos 4 – No new news.*
 - *Mid-Coast 3 – No new news.*
 - *Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers –*
 - *PUR meeting – Next meeting May 19th.*
 - *Not sure when public tour of Glover site will occur.*
 - *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 a meeting with Porior Engineering on December 6th 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 9th 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.*
- *Met with Port Manager on January 20th to find ways to move forward on project. Found the City Manager had contacted him to encourage movement forward on the project.*
- *Attempted to set up a meet with the Reedsport City Manager, Port of Umpqua Manager, and Don Porior Engineering. We had the Port and the Engineer good with the proposed dates, but the City Manager was not willing to meet until the Port goes through the legal process with the tidegates and levies with Army Corps of Engineers.*
- *Due to that situation with the Port and City, the presentation that the SWCD was going to give to the Port Commission about tidegates on May 20th has been postponed.*
- *Met with the Port Manager on April 22nd to go over the Army Corps tidegates and levies on the Lower Umpqua and Lower Smith River to provide information about what has been done, what hasn't been done, who the affected landowners are, etc.*
- *Leeds Island Park and Restoration Project* –
 - *No new news. Ruwaldt Consulting was to contact the Reedsport City Manager to set up a meeting to discuss the project, but that has not happened. The SWCD contacted the City Manager and found that, just like the Providence Creek tidegates, it was the same with Leeds Island due to the levy system at Leeds Island.*
 - *A member of the Reedsport Parks and Beautification Committee contacted the landowner and found the landowner is still very interested in working with both the SWCD and City on this project.*
- *Douglas Weed Management Area* – *The April 14th meeting was cancelled, but they did put out a short newsletter.*
- *Elk Creek Watershed Coalition* –
 - *Was unable to attend the April and May meetings, but am planning on attending the June 9th meeting.*
- *Forest Service* –
 - *Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative meeting on May 28th.*
- *Hydro Breakfast Meeting* – *Will be presenting at the June 4th meeting. Probably about tidegates and small grants.*
- *Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)* –
 - *Next OACD Personnel Subgroup meeting scheduled virtually for May 18th.*
- *Oregon Conservation Education Association Network (OCEAN)* –
 - *Attended CONNECT from March 31st through April 2nd in Seaside at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.*
- *Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association* – *Annual meeting scheduled for June 8th.*
- *Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network* –
 - *Soil Health Network reporting completed.*

- Oregon DEQ –
 - Umpqua TMDL Implementation –
 - Next meeting scheduled for July 14th.
- Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative –
 - The group is planning activities for 2026.
- Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission –
 - Umpqua SWCD will host their 2-day meeting on August 18 & 19, 2026 with a tour of the Glover Project on the 18th and meeting on the 19th at the Port of Umpqua Annex.
- 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 –
 - Assisted NRCS District Conservationist Stokes with the local workgroup meeting held in Reedsport at the Port of Umpqua Annex on May 13th from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Gave presentation.
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**
 - Assisted landowner with soil health resources.
 - Site visit to obtain 2 soil samples and sent samples to the lab. Provided results to landowner with additional resources and contacts with OSU and the Agrarian Sharing Network.
 - Assisted OSU with soil samples and site visit for olive orchard, apple orchard, and blueberry orchard and sent samples to the lab.

Ongoing TA:

- Otter Creek OWEB Small Grant –
 - In-process. AgWQ Farm Conservation Plan completed in December and approved by landowner in January. Follow-up continuing. Grant writing begun.
- Otter Slough OWEB Small Grant –
 - In-process. Site visit completed February 4th, waiting for more information from landowner to complete the AgWQ Farm Conservation Plan, then the grant will be written. Landowner and SWCD working with NRCS for needed engineering for spring development.
- Clear Creek OWEB Small Grant –
 - In-process. Working with landowner. Site visit completed in November with follow-ups with landowner. AgWQ Farm Conservation Plan needs to be written, then the small grant will follow. Second site visit done on April 29th as many changes have occurred on the ranch.
- Oar Creek – Will need to follow-up with landowner to determine if interested in small grant and to decide details of small grant. AgWQ Farm Conservation Plan needs to be written.
- 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. Was planning on going out with consultant, but consultant was not available.
- Possible in-stream work, riparian buffer and grant for project at Wild Azalea Vineyards.

- *Mailed 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. Have not heard back. Followed up in April. Planning additional site visit.*
- *Ruwaldt Consulting – Met with Matt on January 28th to go over list of projects that we’ll need to continue to work on and projects to begin working on this winter, but unsure if any deliverables occurred.*
- **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.*
 - *Director Elections will be happening soon! Please get ready to prepare your Candidate Packets.*

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. OWEB Capacity Grants –Regarding Proposed Changes to OWEB Administrative Rules for Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Councils – Discussion and/or Review of OWEB Listening Session

The District Manager described how OWEB is proposing changes to the OWEB Capacity Grant Program and encouraged the Directors to attend one of the listening sessions on the topic and to complete the online survey as per OWEB’s request. The District Manager provided a video link to the presentation by OWEB to the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts and the District Manager encouraged the Directors to watch the video prior to completing the online survey and attending one of the listening sessions.

From OWEB, “The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) are working together on an engagement and subsequent rulemaking process for Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Watershed Council capacity grants. The engagement will take place from February to May of 2026, and rulemaking will most likely start in the fall of 2026. The updated rules would apply beginning with the 2029-2031 capacity grant applications.”

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts requested feedback through the use of a Conservation District Operating Cost List, and the District Manager stated that the District’s Fiscal Provider completed that portion for the District and then the District Manager would provided the completed spreadsheet to OACD.

One of the changes described would be to change how operating costs are covered through the Capacity Grants. The current procedure is to cover it through a set amount as part of the Capacity Grant as a dollar amount. OWEB is considering changing that process to match their other grant programs which use an indirect cost amount of 15% of the total grant to cover operating costs. This could be detrimental to small Districts and Watershed Councils.

OWEB and ODA need your feedback to help inform rulemaking and the direction of capacity grants moving forward.

There are two ways to provide your input:

Complete the anonymous [Capacity Grants Survey](#)

The last public listening session will occur on the following date:

- **May 18, 1:00-3:00 pm - Virtual**

Please [register](#) by 5:00 pm the day before the listening session(s) you would like to attend. After registering, you will receive an email containing additional listening session information.

2. Director Recruitment & Elections – 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.

Discussion commenced regarding the Elkton area for zone 3 recruitment, and North Fork Smith River, Ash Valley, and Scottsburg for zone 2 recruitment with possible leads for both zones.

One of the biggest issues is that people are busy, but Umpqua SWCD meetings generally only last about an hour each month and are held virtually, so that could be helpful for people with busy schedules.

Discussion about upcoming candidate elections. Information provided to Directors.

3. June SWCD Meeting - Discussion

Discussion commenced regarding changes to Director schedules for June and July of 2026 and it was determined that dates would need to change to accommodate directors:

The June 11th meeting will be held on June 4th for this year.

The July 9th meeting will be held on July 7th for this year.

FUNDING COMMITTEE

Reports and follow up to items.

No new news.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair N. Baumgartner at 5:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next business meeting for the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is scheduled for June 4, 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