



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2025
(Approved September 25, 2025)

Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:06PM

Board members present at office: Ernie Newton, Jonathan Morse, Adela Villers, Cindy Gant

Board members present on Zoom/Telephone:

Absent board members: Mark Villers

Staff present in office: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas, Abigail Richards

Staff present on Zoom:

Guests present in office: Katie Woodruff (NRCS), Chris Claire (ODFW)

Guests present on Zoom:

6:06PM Ernie called the meeting to order.

6:07PM Introductions

6:07PM Ernie asked for comments on June 25, 2025 regular minutes.

6:08PM Jonathan motioned to approve the June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Cindy seconded. Motion carried

6:08PM Finance Report – Caley

- Caley explained why we didn't have the finance report available for this meeting in the board packets.
- Caley explained how the rules have changed for carrying over expenses into July. This confuses things with having a "crossover" of funds and Caley has to manually figure out what was used and claimed during that time.
- Modena got a grant for making the website ADA compliant which was added and added some more confusion.
- Expenses will be moved to zero out the balances for the SOW and Dist Op.
- Caley explained the process of what she did.
- Explained what the Umpqua Bank charges are.
- Albertsons/Gatov has permit fees on it and need to be removed. Grant was closed out in June.

6:18PM Caley will send the finance report to the board after the final edits are completed

6:19PM Old Business

- No old business to discuss

6:19PM Annual Meeting discussed

- Locations: Bandon Barn or OSU Extension (Myrtle Point)

6:21PM Ernie read the Annual Meeting Resolution to have the Annual Meeting at the OSU Extension in Myrtle Point on January 28, 2026.

6:22PM Cindy motioned to accept the 2025 Annual Meeting Resolution. Adela seconded.

6:30PM Audit Engagement Letter discussed

- Caley explained what happens during the audit.

6:28PM Jonathan motions to approve to sign the Engagement Letter from Grimstad and Associate. Cindy seconded. All in favor.

6:28PM Adopt a Park Program

- Modena informed the board that the district's next workday date will be October 4th from 10AM to 12PM.
- The Friends of Coquille River Walk will be having a workday on Saturday, September 6th from 10AM to 12PM if anyone would like to join.

6:30PM September Board Meeting discussed

- Caley explained OWEB is doing a site visit and it has already been scheduled.

6:33PM Jonathan motioned to move the September board meeting from Wednesday September 24, 2025 to Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 6:00PM. Adela seconded. All in favor. Motioned carried.

6:34PM IGA with ODFW

- Abby explained to the board regarding the IGA with ODFW.
- We need an IGA with ODFW to access funds and for permitting purposes.
- ODFW sent the IGA.
- This will allow Abby to start the project.

6:36PM Jonathan motioned to sign the IGA with ODFW for South Fork Riparian Improvement Project. Cindy seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

6:36PM Staff Reports – Caley

- We need to block out time to revisit the Long-Range Business Plan
- Doesn't see our organization growing for a couple of years.
- Jeff Rola reached out and could potentially help us
- Abby going on maternity leave which will leave us short staffed
- Ernie is looking to retire.
- Jeff is possibly interested in becoming an At Large Board Member

- Also interested in potentially contracting work with the district.
- Small grants has been raised to \$20,000
- Small Grant Lead grant has been submitted.

6:42PM Staff Reports – Modena

- Nothing new to add

6:42PM Staff Reports –Abby

- Nothing new to add

6:42PM Safety Meeting

- Possible training coming up about safety commuting. September 3rd.
- Caley explained HR Solutions

6:45PMPM Katie (NRCS)

- Barb is on vacation this week.
 - Retiring in December
 - Has a month to hear about the grant to continue her position.
- NRCS is wanting to meet with the district staff to follow up from the CONNECT conference. Katie is working on scheduling a date to meet.
- Katie will be gone the second week of September and the last two weeks of October for vacation.
- IRA has gone away and they don't expect to get it back.
 - Should not affect them.

6:48PM Chris (ODFW)

- Working with Caley on Winter Lake Phase III
 - Permitting
 - Two permits remaining to obtain
- Albertsons project discussed
- NOAA is the major funder and NRCS
- Coho season in Coquille and the Coos is starting in September
- A person called ODFW about mosquitos.
- Suggested having a board tour at the NBWL project
- Mosquitos discussed more in depth.

6:58PM Caley mentioned Strayer was out sampling and he mentioned the mosquitos are bad at South Slough.

7:04PM Ernie asked Jeff Rola if he had anything to add.

- Introduced himself
- Would like to be of use and help. Is not looking for a position. Can work under contract. Successful in raising money and managing projects.
- Helped Deschutes get a tax base.
- Working to develop different projects and help people where he can.

7:07PM Ernie adjourned the meeting.

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Modena Thomas

Date