



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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Phone 541-396-6879

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2026
Approved March 25, 2026

Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:53PM

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

Board members present on Zoom/Telephone:

Absent board members: Cindy Gant

Staff present in office: Caley Sowers, Modena Thomas, Strayer Bartoshesky

Staff present on Zoom:

Guests present in office: Sydney Paoli (Curry SWCD), Justin Queen (CoqWA), Eric Nusbaum, Beth, Katie Woodruff

Guests present on Zoom:

6:58PM Mark called the meeting to order.

6:58PM Introductions

7:00PM Mark asked for comments on January 28, 2026 regular minutes.

7:01PM Jonathan reported that Mark at the city bought the boards for the bridge. He said we could replace the boards if we wanted to.

7:02PM Jonathan motioned to approve the January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ernie seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

7:04PM Finance Report – Caley

- Caley explained
- Received some grant payments
- Caley wants to start doing advances rather than fronting the cost and waiting for reimbursements.
- Closing out Sitkum, Lee Valley
- Tigart grant – needs to be removed. They decided not to do the project. (SIA small grant \$15,000)
- As soon as we send in our audit, we can get our next capacity grant
- Audit is completed and we passed.
- Caley does monthly corrections with accountant
- Caley asked for any questions.

7:13PM Jonathan motioned to accept the January Finance Report. Adela seconded. All in favor. Motion carried

7:14PM Old Business: Discussed volunteering at the park. Sydney wants to be added to the email chain.

7:19PM District Audit – is required by ODA to assure them that the district is meeting our legal obligations.

- Discussed the audit being filed with an extension
- Agreed upon principals is what is completed if \$250,000 to \$1,000,000
- Discussed last year was more than the current year
- Look at expenditures if it will be under \$1,000,000 and if so, ask Grimstad what we should file

7:26PM Jonathan motioned to accept the 2025 audit provided by Grimstad and Associate. Adela seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

7:34PM Fred Messerle wanted time to explain the Salmon Credit Bill to the board, but he did not show for the board meeting.

- Eric stated it is a demo project specifically for Coos and Curry County. (Mitigation program)
- The bill did not pass

7:41PM Eric explained the resolution of opting to limit liability for public trails or structures to the board.

7:44PM Adela motioned to pass the resolution to opt in to limit liability for public trails or structures. Jonathan seconded. All in favor. Resolution accepted.

7:46PM Caley updated the board on the latest information obtained regarding getting the staff medical.

- Updated the board regarding the personnel committee meeting
- Modena will schedule personnel committee meeting to discuss the medical.
- Need to update the policy regarding medical
- Caley can make it work with the budget
- Would probably need to come out of the general fund
- Should increase the bill rate with future grants
- Look into the typical billing rate (salaries)
- Write your billing rate what it will be in three years and not what it is currently
- Put some money in the grant for managing the tech (executive director)
- Finalize the benefit policy with the committee then bring it to the board for approval
- Need to have a budget committee

7:57PM Organization Growth & Development

- Strayer needs a raise. Will receive back pay to 6 month anniversary (July 15, 2025)

- The board gave Caley authority to give raises
- He is doing Abby's job since she is on maternity leave

8:00PM Staff Report – Caley

- Working on permits
 - Got Albertson's
 - Working on Gatov's
- Discussed different projects and their permits

8:02PM Staff Report – Modena

- Nothing new to add

6:52PM Staff Report – Strayer

- Rough drafts on small grants
- Working with Sydney for CREP
- Connections through the workshops for small grants

8:03PM RFB for the Culbertsons and Groves project discussed

- Mark is possibly interested in bidding
- Discussed conflict of interest
- Board is not involved in approving the bid
- Mark and Adela would have to declare a conflict of interest
- Cannot participate and Mark & Adela cannot answer questions
- Have a very detailed scoring sheet in how the bid is chosen
- Transparent process
- Score them blindly
- Put the conflict of interest in the minutes
 - Vice-chair will state that the board is unable to take a vote then they choose either Mark or Adela to vote but they still can't participate in any discussion.

8:16PM Safety Meeting

- Landlord will be putting a outside light on the building

8:17PM Katie Woodruff – NRCS report

- Working on applications
- 30 EQUIP applications
- 10 CSP applications
- New shutdown does not affect her at this time

8:19PM Sydney Paoli – Curry SWCD report

- CREP enrollment period opened
- Focusing on reenrollments
- Going on site visits with Strayer
- Deadline March 20th
- Four-Mile potential project discussed.

- New FSA staff (Nikki Leep)

8:25PM Justin Queen – CoqWA report

- Request for bids for Beaver Hill
 - Removing canary grass

8:34PM Beth ODA

- Listening session for upcoming rulemaking regarding capacity grants (dist op)
 - Needs to be tied to on the ground implementation
 - It is important to give feedback on how it will affect the district
 - Two virtual meetings coming up and one in Newport and one in Roseburg.
- Coos has new SIA 2026
 - Will be meeting with staff at end of March
 - Planning meeting sometime in June
 - SIA are \$100,000 total, \$75,000 for outreach \$25,000 for monitoring
- Compliance cases in Coos district
 - Cranberry operation
 - Will be sending a letter
 - Landowner on Hwy 42 past Powers junction
 - Cleared riparian area and has not replanted it
 - Has no livestock
 - Continuing to work with this landowner
 - Potential small grant or enroll in CREP but owner has not decided

8:38PM Eric ODA

- Rules are being written for districts
 - Criteria for writing grants
- Start preparing now but it won't happen until 2029
- Capacity grants are not meeting the constitutional requirement are not meeting lottery dollars requirements
- 30% for overhead currently
- Need to figure out what changes do we need to make when writing grants
- How do we budget grants to cover the administrative costs
- How can we manage our grants and become more self-sustaining (think about it now)
- OACD is trying to get enough support to get a separate capacity from general funds
- Elections: everyone up for election but Adela
 - Incumbents deadline is 10 days before everyone else's
- Director handbook – Eric will come to a meeting to discuss

8:56PM Mark adjourned the meeting.

Signature of the Chairman

Date

Submitted by:

Modena Thomas

Date