



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
89 Alder Street Central Point OR 97502  
Telephone: 541-423-6159 Fax 541-727-7471  
[www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org)

**MINUTES NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED**

April 15, 2026  
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District  
(JSWCD)  
Board Meeting

**Directors, Associates**

**In attendance:**

Ron Hillers – Director  
Stan Dean – Director  
Katelyn Detweiler – Director  
Don Hamann – Director  
Frank Baratta – Director arrived at 4:11pm  
Maxine Cass – Director

**Guests/Partners:**

Beth Pietrzak - ODA  
Ezra Huebner – NRCS  
Commissioner Roberts – Zoom  
Michael - Zoom

**Staff in attendance:**

Jill Smedstad – Executive Director  
Trevor Morris – Business Manager  
Kelli Klein – Outreach & Engagement Coordinator  
Michael Skandalis – Forest Conservation Technician  
Meghan Montgomery – Forestry Conservationist  
Clint Nichols – Riparian Resource Conservationist  
Paul DeMaggio – Water Resource Engineer  
Kora Mousseaux – Community Resource Cons - Zoom

Director Dean called the March Board Meeting to order at 4:00pm followed by introductions.

**March Meeting Minutes**

**A motion by Director Hillers with a second by Director Detweiler to approve the March Board meeting minutes passed unanimously**

**Treasurers Report**

Director Hillers reported that the financial reports look good.

**Director Recruitment**

Director Dean noted that Director Hamann’s position will be open and for everyone to keep their eyes open for new recruits. If you find something, bring it to Executive Director Smedstad or Director Dean.

**NRCS**

Ezra Huebner was present and reported that NRCS Local Work Group will be meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm before the JSWCD board meeting and welcomes JSWCD Board members and Staff to attend.

**Rogue River Watershed Council**

No Report but Director Dean gave a plug for Celebrate The Rogue happening on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm to 8 pm at Ashland Hills Inn. The theme this year is The American Beaver.

**Commissioner Roberts:**

No Report

**ODA**

Beth Pietrzak reported that the Inland Rogue Agricultural Water Quality biennial review meeting taking place at JSWCD on April 16, 2026, from 1-2:30 pm. There will be presentations from ODA, DEQ and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Jackson and Josephine Counties. There will be feedback from the Local Advisory Committee on how the Ag Water Quality Program should be implemented locally. Additionally, on June 10, the staff from ODA, DEQ and JSWCD are gathering with water quality staff from across the state in Jackson County. There will be a tour of Antelope Creek and the Meridian Irrigation Improvement Project.

**Admin Report**

Executive Director Smedstad provided updates on several ongoing initiatives and upcoming events. The Board and staff Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for July 6-7, with consultants Amy and Alison conducting interviews with Board and staff members in advance of the retreat. Five JSWCD staff members and Directors Dean and Detweiler attended the Connect+ Conference in Seaside, where approximately 300 natural resource professionals gathered; discussions are underway regarding a potential combined Connect and OACD conference in 2027. Paul DeMaggio was recognized for receiving an NRCS Oregon award honoring his outstanding service and contributions to conservation efforts.

Work has begun on the District's compensation study, with Trevor collecting salary and benefits information from comparable taxing districts for review by the Personnel Committee and Board once responses are compiled. Also highlighted were several upcoming meetings and events, including the ODA Local Area Committee biennial review meeting, the Integrated Pest Management Festival, the Inland Rogue Water Resiliency Group webinar series, a staff planning retreat, and the NRCS Local Working Group meeting to be hosted at the District office in May.

**Quarterly Staff Reports:**

All staff reports are in the Quarterly Report which was provided in your April Board Packet. Please see Kim Ingram at the front desk for a physical or digital copy.

**Personnel Committee Report**

Director Baratta said that he is putting out feelers to the board to start thinking about what they actually want to offer the employees in the way of a compensation package.

**Legislative Updates**

Director Dean had no legislative updates but noted that he gave everyone two letters of comment on the BLM plans. One of them was the county's plan and the other was Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative.

**OACD**

OACD decided not to raise dues this year. There will be an OACD conference in the fall with the possibility of combining OACD and Connect Conferences. Advocacy Video #3 was played for the Board

**Agenda Build**

Budget Hearing in June

**Public Input**

There was no public input.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Ingram  
Office Assistant

Minutes approved as printed:

*Stan Dean* Date 05/27/26  
Stan Dean (May 27, 2026 17:01:18 PDT)

Approved as amended:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_