



Soil and Water Conservation Commission Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
May 10, 2023	Hybrid Meeting –Online and In-Person at Orchard View Farms, 4055 Skyline Road, The Dalles, OR	1:00 PM	5:00 PM

CHAIR	COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	ABSENT
Barbara Boyer	Al Hrynyshyn, Ken Bailey, Jim Bob Collins Online – Stan Dean	Jerry Ward, Tim Kerns

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (ODA) STAFF PRESENT:

Isaak Stapleton, Natural Resource Programs Director; Karin Stutzman, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program Lead; Sandi Hiatt, SWCD Grants Administrator; Eric Nusbaum, SWCD Operations Specialist; Renita McNaughtan, Administrative Specialist; Olivia Jasper, Regional Water Quality Specialist; Jenn Ambrose, GIS Specialist
Online: Amanda Robinson, AgWQ SIA Specialist; Jim Johnson, Land Use Coordinator; Mike Badzmierowski, Soil Health Specialist

ADVISORS:

Jan Lee, OACD; Andrea Kreiner, OACD

VISITORS:

Josh Thompson, Assistant Manager, Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); Brenda Thomas, Mike Omeg, and David Ortega of Orchard View Farms
Online: Nancy Hamilton, East Multnomah SWCD; Jason Kesling, Harney SWCD

DEPART HOTEL - MEET AT ORCHARD VIEW FARMS - HEADQUARTERS

PRESENTATION – WASCO SWCD PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

Josh Thompson, talked about the programs that the Wasco SWCD were currently working on, such as four SIAs, the Wasco County Pesticide Stewardship program, watershed assessment updates, weed management, Mosier groundwater, smolt monitoring, facilities management.

INTRO OF FARM, CHANGES IN ORCHARD BUSINESS, TOUR OF PACKING HOUSE

Brenda Thomas shared a fascinating 100-year history of the Orchard View Farms. **Mike Omeg** talked about the work they do at Orchard View and how irrigation is fundamental to their success. They farm 3,500 acres of cherry orchards. Challenge is the wells in the south are declining and they must think strategically about future investments of property and water needs. **David Ortega** provided an interesting packing house tour, then Brenda took the group on a drive-by tour of the many orchards and H2A living quarters provided for the workers.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.