



OACD NEWS

December 2022



Legislative Session Just Around the Corner

The Oregon Legislature will meet in its long session (160 days) in 2023. While the legislature will meet to organize in mid-January, the session work gets into full swing February 1. There will be many new legislators and a new governor so change is coming! OACD's Advocacy Committee continues to work to prepare for the new session.

We have scheduled **advocacy training** for January 19th from 9:30 to 12:00. Part 1 will discuss the process to interact with the legislature, How to use the legislative data system (OLIS) to see bill language, the status of legislation, newsletters from your local legislators, and other tools. Part 2 deals with regulatory follow up after the session and also provides tools for how districts can plan for playing a role in the session.

OACD members adopted **position statements** at an earlier annual conference. Those were updated by the Advocacy Committee's recommendation to the OACD board through board adoption this fall. and they are posted in the member portal of the OACD website.

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The following are some of the issues the Advocacy Committee has reviewed and will be following in the 2023 session.

OAHF funding is an important component to funds some of the SWCD programs, including Conservation easements and conservation management plans that can lead to funding agriculture practices that can additionally include carbon storage. In the last session OAHF was provided \$5 million to fund the program which had received no funding since its inception in 2017. OACD was one of the partners promoting that investment and we have joined again with a group of partners to promote a \$10 million investment in 2023. The Oregon Conservation Partnership (Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, COLT; the network of Oregon Watershed Councils, NOWC; OACD; and OCEAN) recently provided a [webinar](#) in which OWEB's Grant Manager Eric Williams and OAHF Director Taylor Larson shared information on the OAHF program. Recent solicitation for funding has resulted in a number of applications which will be reviewed by the OAHF Commission for a funding recommendation to OWEB.

A consortium of several SWCDs has been working on securing funding for the **Wildlife Habitat Tax Credit Program**. Although enacted in 1993, the program has been primarily unfunded for a number of years. The presentation to the House Environment & Natural Resources Committee this month can be seen [here](#), about 15 minutes into the hearing. The WHCMP program can provide property tax incentives to private landowners who want to voluntarily conserve wildlife habitat. [LC 529](#) was adopted as a committee bill for support in the 2023 session. LC stands for legislative counsel draft; amendments may occur before the bill is printed for introduction during the coming session. The bill is intended to streamline the program which would be supported in the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife budget. The flyer and other information is available at our OACD member portal at OACD's website. If you do not already have access you can sign up as a member on the opening page of the website. OACD will support this legislation during the session.

We also continue to work with Senator Dembrow and a working group on providing a **statewide program for carbon sequestration** and other practices on natural and working lands, following up on the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) September 21, 2021 [proposal](#) on natural and working lands. **LC 3026** will establish the Natural and Working Lands Fund which can then be disbursed to agencies providing resilience work for project grants: OWEB, ODFW, ODF and ODA. The amended LC draft is an attachment as it is not yet available at OLIS to link to. The important components of the bill include support for a statewide program, positioning the state to leverage federal funds, and creating a source of funds to incentivize voluntary actions. (See also Appendix A, page 17.)

At this point, the only introduced legislative concepts available are those that committees Have endorsed as committee supported bills. But there are at least 2,000 more sponsored by individual legislators yet to be introduced.

Committee bills introduced in December which will be followed by OACD:

LC 1492 Creates the ***Oregon Soil Health Initiative*** to improve soil health in Oregon to by collaborating on and advancing voluntary incentive-based soil health strategies, including financial incentives, technical assistance, outreach and education, research and other resources. Collaborating entities and agencies include ODA, OWEB, OSU Extension, and SWCDs. The initiative will develop a statewide Soil Health Roadmap, set up an oversight committee, and include grants for beneficial practices through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and other sources. In addition to funds to agencies, \$480k is called out for grants and equipment through SWCDs from OWEB funding provided by this bill.

LC 1895 Placeholder bill for an ongoing **drought relief and resiliency package**. High level categories include topics such as implementation of recommendations from the Drought Emergency Response Task Force in 2016, establishment of a drought emergency fund, drought relief for agricultural producers, improved drought planning and outreach, and investments in ecological resiliency.

LC 2356 **Federal Funding Readiness**. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is set to deliver approximately \$550 billion in new spending over the coming decade, making it one of the largest public-works investments in history. More than 85% of the total will go to state and local agencies via project grants, creating a large and more complex funding process with detailed eligibility requirements. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will also make significant investments in infrastructure. The objective of this bill is to make sure that applicants can identify and successfully implement investment ready projects. Focus areas include: (a) dedicated capacity within the Governor's Office to coordinate infrastructure investments; (b) improved interagency coordination around state and federal funding opportunities; (c) increased access to technical assistance to secure funding and flexible funding to match with federal funds; and (d) tracking and accountability.

LC 3313 **Integrated Water Resources Strategy**. The Integrated Water Resources Strategy is the legislatively directed state water strategy meant to help Oregon understand its instream and out-of-stream water needs. The bill will add provisions for increased tribal, stakeholder, and public participation as well as provisions to guide implementation.

LC 3456 **Water Czar**. Creates interagency water officer in the office of the Governor to promote increased efficiencies and improve outcome. Provides added staff capacity, creation of an interagency Strategic Water Management Council, support for updates and implementation of the state Integrated Water Resources Strategy, development of a coordinated statewide investment strategy, expansion of community outreach on water priorities, and other efforts.

Other bills:

[LC 1458](#) Biosolids, including those related to agriculture.

[LC 1222](#) Biomass from feedstock

[LC 2227](#) Incentives to reduce wildfire risk

[LC 2470](#) Wildfire insurance

[LC 2624](#) Water Reuse – program to enhance water supply

[LC 3262](#) Lake Abert – potential state support for resolution on SE Oregon Lake in severe decline

Other topics likely to be addressed:

Renewable Energy Siting. Working group meetings seek consensus for facility siting, including development of large solar on high quality farmland.

Potential right-to-farm legislation, sudden oak death, salmon credits on private lands; green infrastructure.

If you have issues that require legislative or regulatory assistance, please advise the OACD Advocacy Committee by sending your proposals to committee chair Stan Dean (stan.dean@jswcd.org) and cc me (jan.lee@oacd.org) and we will work with you to seek assistance to your issue.

Governor-elect Tina Kotek has opened a website where her transition team will include issues and updates: Governor's transition [Website](#). In early December the transition team held a 4 hour session on natural resource agency funding to which OACD and other associations were invited to share their priorities.

New Legislative Leadership:

Speaker of the House: Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis)

House Majority Leader: Rep. Julie Fahey (D-Junction City/Eugene)

House Minority Leader: Rep. Vikki Breese Iverson (R-Prineville)

Senate President: Sen. Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)

Senate Majority Leader: Sen. Kate Lieber (D-Beaverton)

Senate Minority Leader: Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend)

The Senate will seat 17 Democrats and 12 Republicans in January. Information on new legislators will be available on OLIS then. The House will have 35 Democrats and 25 Republicans. In the last session the Democratic Party had 3/5 majorities in each house and could pass tax bills with no Republican votes. That is no longer the case.



COMING EVENTS

OACD

Advocacy Training: January 19, 2023, 9:30-12:00 (see article page 1)

AGENCY EVENTS

OWEB meets January 24th and 25th virtually

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION meets 23 & 24th in Salem (hybrid)

SWCC Soil and Water Conservation Commission meets February 8 & 9

Other agency commissions not yet scheduled for 2023 - Check agency pages for updates and agendas.

OTHER EVENTS

2023 Special Districts Association Legislative Day – January 13

9am-2pm at the Salem Convention Center | 200 Commercial St SE, Salem

Join SDAO's Legislative Day to learn more about the SDAO Legislative Program and receive an update on legislative matters affecting special districts.

Topics will include:

- Importance of Legislative Outreach
- November General Election Recap
- ARPA Funds
- Public Records
- Cybersecurity

[Click Here To Register...](#)

SDAO 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Register Now for the SDAO 2023 Annual Conference

Mark your calendar for the 2023 SDAO Annual Conference! It will be three years since Being able to meet in person at the annual event. There will be over 20 training and education

sessions, networking opportunities, exhibitor trade show, and more. Location: This year's conference will take place at Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon.

Dates:

February 9: Pre-Conference Sessions **February 10-12:** Annual Conference

[Learn More and Register!](#)

NACD ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NEW ORLEANS, LA

Registration is now open for the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual [Conference.](#)



NACD's 77th Annual Meeting February 11-15, 2023



FUNDING RESOURCES

NRCS OREGON NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Oregon NRCS is now accepting applications from both agricultural producers and forest landowners for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Applications are due February 3, 2023. [Application information](#)

NWF FIVE STAR & URBAN WATERS RESTORATION PROGRAM

This National Fish and Wildlife Foundation focuses on stewardship of coastal wetland and riparian ecosystems nationwide. Applications due 1/31/23:

<https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/nfwf-five-star-20220823-fs.pdf>

PACIFIC MARINE & ESTUARINE FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

[Request for Proposals](#) – applications due 2/17/23

NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION

From SDAO news: Earlier this year, the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) launched a tool to streamline special district members' ability to search for project or program funding opportunities. In partnership with The Ferguson Group (TFG), NSDC established a "[project idea portal](#)" for districts to submit projects for which funding opportunities are sought. Districts are welcome to submit details of the project via the webform, which TFG's grants team will review and work with the district to identify and apply for potential grant and finance opportunities. [Click here to access the NSDC Project Idea Portal](#) Because of SDAO's membership to the National Coalition, we are excited to offer you this value-added benefit through our national Coalition at no cost.

OWEB AWARDED GRANTS



OWEB

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded 80 grants totaling \$11,574,321 to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and clean water projects as a result of its Spring Open Solicitation grant. These investments support watershed health, fish and wildlife habitats, and local communities," says Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, OWEB's Executive Director. Funding for these projects comes from the Oregon Lottery and the Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (provided by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration and includes Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act funding). A listing of all [Spring 2022 Open Solicitation Grant Awards](#) is available on the OWEB website. Since 1999, the Oregon Lottery has provided over \$500 million to OWEB's grant program that helps restore, maintain and enhance Oregon's watersheds. For additional information about OWEB's grant programs, contact [Eric Williams](#).



JOBS, H. R. INFORMATION, TRAINING

TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

[Project Manager](#) Applications due January 10.

WEEDWISE POSITIONS – CLACKAMAS SWCD

Clackamas SWCD

[WeedWise Specialist and CWMA Coordinator](#) apply by January 9

[WeedWise Specialist – CRISP](#) apply by January 23

MILLER WOODS NURSERY CARETAKER – YAMHILL SWCD

The District is hiring a [Miller Woods Nursery Caretaker](#)
(McMinnville or other regional location) *Open until filled*

WEST MULTNOMAH SWCD

Hiring a budget-fiscal manager: apply by January 4

<https://wmswcd.org/wmswcd-budget-fiscal-manager-hiring-announcement-2022/>

Hiring two interns: apply by January 20

<https://wmswcd.org/2023-conservation-internships/>

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

[Executive Director](#) - open until filled. Must be within commuting distance to Salem. Current ED available for training and support through June 2023.

JACKSON SWCD

[Resource Conservationist](#)/Agriculture Specialty open until filled

CITY OF PORTLAND

[Water Resources Education Coordinator](#)

WHEELER SWCD

Wheeler SWCD in Fossil Oregon is seeking [3 employees](#): District Manager, Conservation Manager and Office Assistant. All are open until filled.

CASCADE PACIFIC RC&D

RFQ for [independent contractor](#) to coordinate and facilitate the Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative funded on an annual basis. RFQs due January 20.

POLK SWCD

Both of these positions are listed at Polk's [website](#) with detail and applications are due by 1/6.

- Resource Conservation Planner – Farm/Forest
- Administrative Assistant

HR TRAINING AND RESOURCES

OACD is a member of Cascade Employers Association, a company that serves nonprofit entities with recruiting and human resources training.



Cascade Employers Association

Building better workplaces through
compliance, culture, connection

Upcoming Trainings | December 26 - January 13

Last chance to sign up for these upcoming events



The Synergy Leadership Forum

January 4 | 7:30 – 9 AM | Live Online

[Register now](#)

The Synergy Leadership Forum is designed for senior leaders with the purpose of creating an environment where leaders help other leaders. The interactive format operates with the understanding that the outcomes of working together far outweigh the sum of the individual inputs of the participants.



Navigating Pay Equity and Compensation

January 10 | 9 – 10 AM | Live Online

[Register now](#)

Equal Pay laws across the U.S. make compensation a complex area to navigate. This session will educate you on Oregon's Equal Pay Law including your obligations under the law, provide practical guidance on your next steps to ensure compliance and look at what other organizations are doing.



DEI Roundtable

January 10 | 12 – 1 PM | Live Online

[Register now](#)

The DEI Roundtable is a place and space for engaging in conversations that build DEI awareness and competence in the workplace. The members of the Roundtable will be able to reflect on the meaning of events and ideas, both historical and contemporary and its impact on today's workplace.

Employers, Paid Leave Oregon is Here – from SDAO

Starting Jan. 1, 2023, employers will start withholding contributions for Paid Leave Oregon

What are Paid Leave Oregon contributions, and where do they go?

- Large employers and all employees, regardless of employer size, will start paying contributions to the program on January 1. The money will go into a trust fund that begins paying benefits in September 2023.
- Contributions pay for employee's Paid Leave benefits, grants to help small employers when their employees use paid leave, and for program administration.

As an employer, how can I prepare to collect contributions?

- Use the [employer toolkit](#) as a quick-start guide. The toolkit includes the required notice poster, an employer guidebook, videos, and sample social posts that employers and partners can use to share information with their employees and networks.
- For more detailed questions, visit PaidLeave.Oregon.gov and check out the [resources page](#). We have fact sheets, guidebooks, video overviews, and much more!
- If you still can't find the answer you're looking for, use our [Contact Us form](#). We strive to answer all questions in two business days.

What if I need help using Frances Online?

- All employers will use Frances Online to submit the contributions they have withheld from their employees' paychecks. Large employers will use Frances Online to pay their own contributions as well.
- [The Frances Online support page](#) provides multiple levels of support depending on what you need. We have FAQs, infographics, a chat bot, and multiple ways to connect with staff, including by email and phone.
[Read More...](#)



OREGON

Oregon Environmental Quality Commission Adopts Clean Car II Rule

The [Environmental Quality Commission](#) adopted rules Monday (3-1) to require all new

passenger cars, trucks and SUVs sold in Oregon to be zero emissions by 2035. The commission is the policy and rulemaking board for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Known as Advanced Clean Cars II, the set of rules builds on regulations in place since 2005 that have laid the groundwork for the increase in automakers providing zero emission vehicles -- full battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric or fuel cell -- to the market. Oregon has been a national leader in zero emission vehicle sales over the past several years. Reducing emissions from gas cars is imperative to meeting Oregon's climate and air quality goals. This action will provide better air quality and enhance the health of all Oregonians. [Read More...](#)

INCENTIVES FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

Oregon lawmakers are now looking to provide incentives for landowners for increasing wild-fire resilience, a different approach from the earlier regulatory mapping for defensible space generated last summer, following significant backlash from rural communities. The program was part of SB 762 adopted in 2021. See legislative concepts on page 2 of this newsletter:

[LC 2227](#) Incentives to reduce wildfire risk
[LC 2470](#) Wildfire insurance

Oregon insurance regulators are considering LC 2470 that would require companies to substantiate why increased rates or refusal occur in policy renewal. The concept would also provide more time to rebuild after a fire.

COURT DISMISSES LAWSUIT ON OSHA HEAT AND SMOKE RULES

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit against Oregon OSHA that claimed that the state's heat and smoke rules violate the 14th amendment of the US Constitution and therefore the rules are unenforceable. The suit was brought by Oregon Manufacturers and Commerce, Associated Oregon Loggers and the Oregon Forest and Industries Council, claiming that air quality fluctuates from a number of factors, not just wildfire smoke.

OREGON PUBLICATION ON WATER FUTURE

The Portland Business Journal has published a book featuring articles from prominent Oregonians on water issues now and in the future.

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/ORWRD/2022/12/14/file_attachments/2355320/208688.pdf

KLAMATH RIVER DAM REMOVAL PLAN PROCEEDS

Oregonian [article](#)

ODFW SEEKS FISH SCREENING TASK FORCE AG REPRESENTATIVE

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking for an agriculture representative to join its Fish Screening Task Force. The 7-member task force typically meets two or three times a

year to discuss fish screening and passage issues and make recommendations to the agency — including funding, monitoring, technology, reporting and project prioritization. Members are appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and serve two-year terms. Three members represent agricultural interests, three represent fishing or fish conservation interests, and one represents the public at large. All meetings have in-person or virtual options. The task force will continue to address water diversions through voluntary cooperation from water users in 2023 and will also participate in a statewide prioritization of unscreened water diversions. The deadline to apply is Jan. 15. For more information and to submit an application, contact Katherine Nordholm, ODFW fish screening coordinator, at 503-507-5843 or email katherine.e.nordholm@odfw.oregon.gov.

OREGON WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION GRANTS

The Oregon Water Resources Commission awarded \$6,642,745 in grants to fund three projects for the 2022 cycle of [Water Project Grants and Loans](#).

NEW STATE WATER PORTAL

The new Oregon Water Data Portal project is underway and will feature water resources data from the following listed agencies. An introductory session was held recently and the portal will be launched in the coming biennium, 2023-2025.

Please contact the project team at any time with questions:

Audrey Hatch, OWEB Audrey.HATCH@oweb.oregon.gov

Ben Scandella, Water Resources Department Benjamin.P.SCANDELLA@water.oregon.gov

Michele Martin, DEQ Michele.MARTIN@deq.oregon.gov

NATIONAL

USDA's Peoples' Garden



Sign-up for Urban Ag email Updates at [Farmers.gov/Urban Ag](https://Farmers.gov/UrbanAg)

USDA People's Garden: Do you have a community farm or garden that you would like to designate as a People's Garden? To learn more about People's Garden or to register one, visit the People's Garden webpage at the website, [The People's Garden | USDA](#). You

See video: [The USDA People's Garden Invites Community Gardens to Join Us! - YouTube](#).

NASA Launches Surface Water Mission

NASA has launched an international mission which will survey the earth's surface water, which will provide extensive data to farmers and others. The spacecraft launched is expected to orbit the earth for at least 3 years as part of the "Surface Water and Ocean Topography Project" (SWOT). NASA partnered with space agencies from Canada, France and the UK. The project is expected to measure water levels on more than 90% of the earth's surface. Data received will allow officials to track water flow and to assist identifying high risk droughts or floods. Verifiable data should be available as early as the spring of 2024.



Former ODA Director Confirmed by US Senate

The former head of the Oregon Department of Agriculture was confirmed by the U.S. Senate this week to oversee foreign trade in USDA. President Joe Biden appointed Alexis Taylor as undersecretary for trade and foreign agriculture affairs in May. Taylor will be tasked with building global food security and export opportunities for farmers across the US.

Oregon Senators Introduce Scaled-back River Democracy Act

George Plaven, [Capital Press](#) article: The River Democracy Act is proposed to be scaled back from 4,700 stream miles to 3,215 stream miles to be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Buffers would be widened to ½ mile from ¼ mile and the law would require federal land managers to develop wildfire mitigation plans along those corridors. This bill has not been enacted but is still pending process.



Sagebrush in Prisons Project

is a unique collaboration among the Oregon Department of Corrections, Bureau of Land Management, and the Institute of Land for Applied Ecology. The goal of the project is to engage incarcerated men and women in habitat restoration and ecological science.

Updated List of Climate-Smart Agriculture/Forestry Mitigation Activities

NRCS recently updated the list of conservation practices that are considered to be **Climate- Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities**. These climate-smart conservation practices are delivered through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).



While NRCS offers a broad suite of voluntary conservation activities, the agency identifies a subset as critical to climate change mitigation. When applied appropriately, these activities may deliver quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and/or increases in carbon sequestration. Many offer co-benefits and ancillary benefits that help operations build climate change resilience while addressing other natural resource concerns such as soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat and air quality. Please [click here](#) to visit the NRCS website. (From FSA News)

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

We will feature here items from districts such as shared annual reports, updates and events, and welcome your input. Send to jan.lee@oacd.org and we will try to accommodate those items in the next issue after receipt.

Annual Reports from Districts:

[East Multnomah SWCD Annual Report](#)

[Clackamas SWCD Annual Report](#)

[Jackson SWCD Annual Report](#)

New Leadership

Kevin Porter Joins Polk SWCD as District Manager

Kevin has lived and farmed in Polk County for 16 years. He and his wife, Karen, have 75 acres near Pedee, where they have hazelnuts and beef cattle. Kevin grew up on a dairy farm in Tillamook County. He brings years of experience in farm management, logistics, agricultural services, project and personnel management to Polk SWCD. Contact Kevin at 503-623-9680 or manager@polkswcd.com.



Andy Bleckinger Joins Yamhill SWCD as District Manager

Andy joins the Yamhill SWCD team as the District Manager and is excited to return to his home state where he grew up. Andy received his B.Sc. in Environmental Studies from Southern Oregon University, where he focused on his passions of herpetology and aquatic ecology. For the past 16 years, Andy has dedicated his career to connecting youth and local communities with the natural world around them, promoting environmental stewardship and advocating for environmental equity. Andy spent the last 3 years with the San Juan SWCD in New Mexico as the Assistant District Manager, assisting with District operations and overseeing the outreach and education programs.



As the District Manager for Yamhill SWCD, Andy continues to support community agriculture, resource conservation and the District operations and team that make it all happen. When not managing grants or attending meetings, he enjoys hiking, running and mountain biking. Contact Andy at 503-479-8643 or andy@yamhillswcd.org.

OACD'S NEW BOARD MEMBER



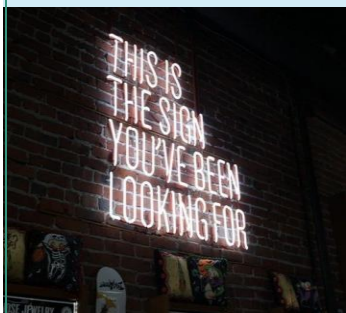
Al Hrynshyn, board member from the Upper Willamette SWCD, was elected to the OACD board in December. He has served on the Upper Willamette board for the past 6 years, currently serving as board chair the past 4 years. He is also a member of the Oregon Soil & Water Conservation Commission. Al will represent the northwest region on the OACD board. That region includes Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Lincoln, Siuslaw, Upper Willamette, Benton, Linn, Polk and Yamhill SWCDs.

Al is a retired geologist, with a BS from the University of Wyoming and MS from Utah State University. He worked for several years in the petroleum industry and spent many years as an educator teaching geology, physics, and chemistry. He discovered the beauty of the Willamette Valley and moved here from Utah. They own a small ranch in the hills west of Junction City. Al believes soil and water are two of our most important resources and is excited to bring his enthusiasm and experience to UWSWCD, OACD and the SWCC. You can reach Al at zone1uw@gmail.com.

The NW board position became vacant when Karin Stutzman who held it previously was hired by ODA to be the SWCD liaison. Information on the other 8 OACD board members is available at the website: www.oacd.org.

WE NEED AND SUPPORT ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Associate Directors add talent to SWCD boards and are a training ground for future directors. In fact, the conservation district statute provides a route for associates to become zone directors whether or not they meet the land ownership requirement after serving one year and filing a conservation district plan. The plan can be as simple as a backyard conservation scope. Case in point, the Clackamas SWCD has 4 directors who do not own or manage 10 acres or more—two members are at-large directors and 2 chose the associate director route to be eligible to be elected to the board. The remaining 3 directors meet the land requirement. The notice in the Columbia SWCD newsletter (below) would be good to replicate to build your team.



Associate Directors Welcome

The Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District Board is taking applications for Associate Directors! Associate Directors are volunteers, serving as non-voting members of the board, that act as advisors and as representatives of the board of directors. We welcome your experience. You will have opportunities to educate and develop conservation projects in the community as well as contribute input at board meetings. Please [contact us](#) to apply.



Oregon Conservation Partnership

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (OrCP) is made up of the Oregon Association Of Conservation Districts (OACD), the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) and the Oregon Conservation and Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN). OrCP holds a capacity grant from OWEB to provide deliverables such as the working lands guidebook OACD recently completed, for CONNECT gatherings, for webinars, publications and projects of our members, and for retaining the services of a public relations firm to report on member projects or news. There are 145 member organizations that make up the OrCP's four organizations. We are glad to promote projects that you may have to provide media coverage as possible. Just let OACD know of your needs.

ORCP webinars are generally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. They are recorded and archived at <https://www.conservationpartnership.org/webinars/> Recent webinars have included:

- Understanding and Dismantling Racism
- The Importance of Meaningful Partnerships with Tribal Nations When Establishing Conservation Programs
- Stitching Together Pollinator Habitat Initiatives Across Oregon
- Changes in OSHA Rules for the Oregon Workplace

To sign up for webinar announcements and access, go to the OrCP website where there

Are also job listings and news: <https://www.conservationpartnership.org>

Appendix A: Summary (see page 2 of this newsletter)

Background: 2023 Natural Climate Solutions Bill

BENEFITS OF SUPPORTING NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ON OREGON'S NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS

Leverage Significant Federal Resources for Oregon's Communities. Federal legislation including the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill will provide significant federal funding opportunities¹ for natural climate solutions. To fully access these resources, Oregon will need to be ready ahead of funding deadlines with coordinated partnerships and a list of ready projects to initiate natural climate solutions and secure matching funds.

- The IRA sets aside **\$8 billion** in additional funding for voluntary conservation efforts through the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
- The IRA grants **\$2.2 billion** for state and private forestry conservation programs, including **\$700 million** in competitive grants for the Forest Legacy Program and **\$1.5 billion** in competitive grants for the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. Typical non-federal cost-sharing requirements apply but may be waived by the U.S. secretary of agriculture* on a case-by-case basis.
- The IRA provides **\$550 million** in competitive grants to state foresters or equivalent state officials to support nonfederal forest landowners and climate mitigation, carbon sequestration, and forest resilience. No cost sharing is required in disadvantaged or underserved communities, and in all other neighborhoods, the federal share of costs cannot exceed 80 percent.
- The IRA provides **\$2.6 billion** through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for states that border oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Great Lakes; tribal governments; and nonprofits to invest in coastal communities and climate resilience.
- The IRA allocates **\$220 million** for tribal climate resilience funding for tribes and tribal organizations to participate in climate resilience and adaptation programs. This funding will be distributed by the director of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- In IIJA the PROTECT program supports states' efforts to improve the resiliency of transportation

- infrastructure. Funds from the program are split into **\$7.3 billion** of formula funding and **\$1.4 billion** of competitive set-aside grants over five years for resilience improvements at the state and municipal levels. Funding under this program can be used to improve the resiliency of natural infrastructure such as wetlands, flood plains, and aquatic ecosystems.

The bill will **Achieve Oregon's Climate Goals**. Oregon is positioned as a national leader in low carbon energy, however it lags other states in implementing natural climate solutions. Carbon sequestration efforts must be scaled up in addition to Oregon's established emissions reductions goals.

Support Oregon's Forest, Farming, and Ranching Economies. Oregon's forest owners, farmers, and ranchers support numerous economies across the state. It's time we repaid the favor by giving them the tools they need to confront and fight the threat of climate change. This legislation will:

- Support voluntary incentives and technical support for landowners and land managers to enhance natural climate solutions on their lands;
- Help Oregonians maintain the viability of our natural resource economy;
- Support rural and urban jobs in natural resource management;
- Sustain and increase future fiber and agriculture production, by increasing the productivity and profitability of Oregon's farms and ranches