

() Discussion only

(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: SWCD Proposal

<p>Background:</p> <p>The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District has submitted a proposal to the Board to continue the flood coordinator role services for fiscal year 2025-26. The proposal is before the Board for consideration.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Accept proposal and authorize contract with SWCD for continued coordinator role services in an amount of \$20,000</p>
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ATTACHMENTS : Proposal

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

() Dept. Heard (copy)

() Human Resources (copy)

(X) Legal (copy)

() (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: May 21, 2025

Action taken:

Follow-up:



UMATILLA COUNTY SWCD FLOOD COORDINATOR ROLE PROPOSAL FY25-26

**For the Commissioners, City Managers, Control Districts, and Flood Interest
Groups of Umatilla County**

OVERVIEW

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes the continued need for a single organization to take the lead for all flooding initiatives and efforts in Umatilla County, which would allow a synthesis of approaches and collaborative efforts, ensuring each flooding group benefits from the progress of the others. The "Flood Coordinator Role" will provide support to Umatilla County through both proactive and reactive duties to flood events.

Continued Recognized Needs

- Need #1: A single point of contact (POC) and knowledge base for all flooding projects in Umatilla County
- Need #2: A maintained systematic approach (Guidebook) from successes in each flooding group and initiative that can be copied and applied from one watershed and one flood event to another
- Need #3: Immediate onsite documentation of active flooding events for reference and records for future projects
- Need #4: An organization that can facilitate countywide and local flood groups by scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, and taking minutes
- Need #5: An organization that can step into coordinating new flooding groups and initiatives when the need arises, providing staff support to get them off the ground
- Need #6: A consultant that guides and acts as a resource for all flooding projects proposed in the county
- Need #7: An organization that continually works proactively on flooding projects and solutions even in years with no events
- Need #8: An organization that can act as a point of contact (POC) for all landowners in the county for permitting and bank stabilization questions, providing staff time to connect them with resources and the regulatory authorities that control permitting

PROPOSAL

Background and Rationale

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District ("SWCD" or "District") lends itself well to fulfill the needs expressed by the various partners and interest groups in Umatilla County. A non-regulatory, natural resource and conservation-focused entity, the SWCD's mission statement is: "To conserve, protect, and develop natural resources for the environmental and economic benefit of Umatilla County." The recognized needs align with the SWCD's



mission statement, and our jurisdictional boundaries follow the county border, which makes it possible for the District to step quickly into any countywide role, such as the one outlined in this document.

The District is directly managed by an elected Board of Directors who own or manage agriculture land within the borders of Umatilla County, benefitting this initiative by providing local control. The SWCD has been working on flooding issues within the county for over five years, developing needed experience and relationships with local officials, regulatory personnel, and landowners who have experienced repeated events. All of these points set the District up for success in a Umatilla County Flood Coordinator role.

To summarize, the District would be a good fit to continue this role due to our:

- Alignment with mission
- Non-regulatory status
- Jurisdictional authority
- Local control
- Experience in the flooding arena
- Past success with the previous contract

Project Deliverables

Following is a complete list of all project deliverables:

Deliverable	Description
Act as a single point of contact for flooding projects in Umatilla County	The District will participate in all flooding groups and will keep up to date on all proposed projects to be able to share updates and successes with other entities.
Umatilla County Emergency Guidebook that details the pathways for successful documentation of an active event	The District will continue to work with County Emergency Management to develop an "Emergency" Guidebook that details countywide erosion vulnerabilities, active event data collection procedures, permitting permission, equipment resources, etc. to help guide the County, cities, and landowners in preparing an after-event approach that sets restorative actions up for success.
Onsite documentation of active events	The District will work with County Emergency Management to document active events. The District will craft reports and utilize drone technology where appropriate, providing After-Action Report assistance (AAR) to Emergency Management when applicable. The District will also act as an archive for flood events for future project utilization.
Facilitation and leadership of flood groups and initiatives	If requested, the District will take the lead in all new groups that are formed to seek flooding solutions. The District will guide the group by scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, and taking minutes along with providing technical support where appropriate. Additionally, the District will step into the lead coordinating role in any existing groups, if requested.



Technical assistance for proposals	The District will provide technical assistance with flooding project proposals, acting as a consultant and/or grant-writer to help an individual or entity develop an application that fits their needs and goals.
Proactive technical activity	The District will continue to work as the "Flood Coordinator" even in a non-event year, focusing on analyzing stream weaknesses and developing ideas and solutions to address them before an event occurs to reduce damage.
Permitting point of contact	The District will assist landowners and organizations by sharing resources and connecting the applicant to the regulatory authorities and processes so that the applicant can build a successful permit.

RESULTS FROM FY 24-25 CONTRACT

We are thrilled to report our successes from the previous contract:

Metrics

- Landowners Assisted: **24**
- Onsite Documentation of Active Events: **4**
- Flooding Groups Leading or Assisting: **11**
- Technical Assistance for Projects/Grants: **10**
- Stream Surveys/Permit Workshops: **2**
- Umatilla County Bank Stabilization Guidebook: **100% Completed and distributing**

County Return on Investment

- Total Secured Project Dollars (direct or indirect): **\$1,322,427**
- Total Pending/Planned Project Dollars: **\$2,058,495**

COSTS

The following pricing details the cost of the services outlined in this proposal on a yearly basis.

Staff Time	Price
An average of 30 hours a month working on deliverables outlined in this document at \$47.98/hr.	\$17,272.00



Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
 1 SW Nye Ave. Suite 130
 Pendleton, OR 97801
 Phone: 541-278-8049 Ext. 138

Total Services Staff Time Costs	\$17,272.00
Drone Use	
To be billed on a project-to-project basis	
Total Services Drone Costs	
Administration Overhead	
16% Fee	\$2,728.00
Total Services Administration Overhead Costs	\$2,728.00
Total	\$20,000.00/year

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to reach out with any comments or suggestions on the overall proposal. The Umatilla SWCD is committed to making a positive impact in Umatilla County by continuing work on flooding solutions – funding this proposal would continue the momentum that has been established in Umatilla County.

Kyle Waggoner
 District Manager
 541-969-0423
kyle.waggoner@umatillaswcd.org