

### **District Board of Directors**

Rudy Fenk—Chair, Director at Large  
Bill Hagerty—Vice Chair, Director Zone 5  
Greg Woods—Secretary/Treasurer, Zone 4  
Walt Porter—Director Zone 1  
Dave Seals—Director Zone 3  
Daren Filosi—Director Zone 2  
Larry Zweifel—Director at Large

### **Associate Directors**

Barbara Bosch-Seaholm-Director Emeritus  
Gus Meyer— Associate Director  
Dave Well-Associate Director

### **District Staff**

Ray Monroe—Watershed Technical Specialist  
Sherry Vick-Office Coordinator/Technician  
Michael Blankenship—Water Quality and Weed  
Coordinator Assistant

### **PARTNERS**

Bureau of Land Management - Coast 105 Radio  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Economic Development Council of Tillamook County  
Environmental Protection Agency - Division of State Lands  
Farm Bureau - Farm Credit Service - Farm Service Agency  
KTIL/KMBD Radio - Headlight Herald Newspaper  
Lower Nehalem Watershed Council  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Nestucca, Neskowin & Sandlake Watersheds Council  
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Oregon Department of Forestry - Port of Tillamook Bay  
Oregon State University Extension Service  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Tillamook Bay Watershed Council  
Tillamook County Creamery Association  
Tillamook County Board of Commissioners  
Tillamook County Community Development  
Tillamook County Flood Control Group  
Tillamook County Public Works  
Tillamook Estuary Partnership - National Estuary Program  
Tillamook County Planning Department  
US Army Corps of Engineers — US Forest Service

### **Thank You for Donating This Year**

Once again the District has not requested Donations this year.  
There will still be a dinner provided but no silent auction.

### **2023 Scholarship Recipients**

The Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors is pleased to honor **Allie Guarcello, Karrisa Haderman** and **Nina Zweifel** with a **\$1,500.00** dollars scholarships each as they work to protect natural resources and support agriculture for a sustainable future. This is the Eighth year the District has offered scholarships to local residents.



**Tillamook County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

# **2022-2023 Annual Report**



*Riparian Enhancement and  
Restoration continues to be a  
priority for the District  
as well as our partners.*

**Tillamook County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
4000 Blimp Blvd., Suite 200  
Tillamook, OR 97141**

**Office: (503) 457-9024  
Web: [tillamookcountyswcd.org](http://tillamookcountyswcd.org)**

## **Tillamook County Soil & Water Conservation District MISSION STATEMENT**

**TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
PLANNING IN ORDER TO ENSURE AND PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION AND WISE  
USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.**

### **HISTORY AND CURRENT OBJECTIVES**

The Tillamook County Soil & Water Conservation District, established in 1940, is the oldest of the 45 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Oregon. The district has operated under the premise that locally led conservation fosters land and resource stewardship for all users of the natural resources in Tillamook County. Actively involved as conservation leaders in the community for the past **Eighty Three(83)** years, the Tillamook County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors has sponsored activities that repair, restore, maintain, and enhance the natural environment within Tillamook County. The focus on resource management issues has evolved to provide information, education, technical and financial assistance to all stakeholders within the county. We continue that focus daily.

The District's accomplishments are remarkable when you take into consideration the unique funding that supports its efforts. Tillamook County voters approved a tax rate for the District in November of 2012 that supports operation and program expenses. Each program offered by the District is supported with grant dollars sponsored by a variety of sources. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) provide the anchor stone that allows the District to leverage additional funding sources. Without ODA's support, many of the programs offered to landowners would not be possible. The District staff is constantly working to find grant programs and sources that address the conservation needs identified across the county. By understanding and recognizing the unique features of our natural resource landscape, the District has had an opportunity to provide essential elements in the delivery of the conservation message across Tillamook County.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Rudy Fenk



Conservation will play a direct and deciding role in our future. Critical Water Resource issues for Oregon and concerns of Tillamook County Residents include:

- **Water Resources Sustainability.**
- **Watershed Management Problems.**
- **Water Resources Management Decisions.**
- **Concerns About Water Quality and Quantity**

Water continues to play a vital role in our community. It has a significant impact on almost all agricultural and small industry production within the county. It is also a force of destruction during flood events as well as through progressive streambank erosion.

Since we started managing and living in our floodplains, there has been a constant struggle to reduce the destructive impacts of water and increase its productive impacts.

Success might be measured or reached by harnessing and managing water, thereby increasing production, and reducing the risk of destruction from flooding and erosion.

Water resources development and management of water quantity and quality remain at the heart of the struggle for sustainability.

Conservation and careful use of natural resources such as water, air, land, and soil will be met through stewardship — the sustainable management of natural resources from generation to generation.

### Annual Plan of Work 2022-2023

#### Program Commitments

- Stream Restoration and Enhancement
- Technical Support/Assistance Program
- Implement North Coast Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan
- Noxious Weed Control
- SWCD/MEAD Agricultural Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund Program
- Educational outreach & implementation of on-the-ground projects with local schools, and Camp Tillamook
- Native Plant Nursery Cooperative

## Cooperator of the Year Award

**Sunny Ridge Jerseys** is this year's recipient of the Cooperator of the Year Award. This honor is in recognition for outstanding commitment to conservation in Tillamook County. By making conservation a priority on their farm the Seals family have improved the soil and water resources on their property and set an example for others in the agricultural community. Their stewardship demonstrates that agricultural production and natural resource conservation are compatible land uses.



**Our Stream Restoration and Enhancement Crew**, whose main focus continues to be noxious weed control and riparian enhancement restoration projects, is the key to the District's success. There was **19,997** feet of Livestock Exclusion fencing installed this year.

The Crew continues to participate in educational and community outreach projects involving the Watershed Councils and local landowner groups to improve water quality and watershed health for all streams. There were **62** landowners provided with financial & technical assistance that implemented several (BMP's) best management practices including over **27.7** acres of tree shrub establishment.

The Crew is funded through state and federal grants and receives materials from the Tillamook County Creamery Association. The District also receives money from a tax rate, passed by the voters of Tillamook County, that supports operations and programs.

**Water Quality** was the theme for the 2023 Clean Water Festival, sponsored by TEP. **Michael Blankenship** educated the students about water quality testing and **TMDL's**. He also identified best managed practices that can be used to improve water quality. The District also participated with a booth at the Tillamook County Fair.



## Noxious Weeds

By Ray Monroe, SWCD staff



Noxious weeds are the non-native aggressive invaders that replace native vegetation, reduce agricultural productivity, cause wind and water erosion, and pose an increased threat to communities from wildfire. They are less common in well-maintained, formal gardens and yards, but may be introduced accidentally by unknowing consumers or pets returning from open spaces and wilderness. A noxious weed is any plant designated by federal, state, or local government officials as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property.

Weeds can imperil habitat by overwhelming native plant species, devastating shelter, and forage, and reducing the diversity and quantity of native plants. When weeds do not hold and protect the soil the way native plants do, erosion and stream sedimentation increase, and fish habitats can become degraded.

Some specific traits that make a plant well-suited to being an invasive species include:

- Lots of seeds - to succeed as an invasive species, a plant must be able to reproduce quickly and aggressively.
- Few natural predators - if the plant isn't eaten by local wildlife, its population is less controlled and they can subsequently become invasive.
- Difficult to kill - many invasive plants are able to reproduce and regrow in a variety of ways. They can also survive fire, chopping, poison, and uprooting. This makes them incredibly hard to get rid of once and for all.
- Thrive in disturbed areas - many invasive species thrive in disturbed ecosystems, taking root when other plants are struggling to survive. They can also survive in a variety of environments.

The best way to fight invasive species is to prevent them from occurring in the first place. Become familiar with plants and wildlife that are native to your area. This can help you to identify invasive species quickly and eradicate them before they wreak too much havoc.

For more information contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District at 503-457-9017

## Financial Summary - July 2022 thru June 2023

	AMT.	PER.
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Tax Revenue	\$417,255	75.7%
Grants	130,827	23.7
Contributions	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	3,254	0.6
Interest	199	0.0
	<u>551,535</u>	<u>100.0</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel Services	300,027	54.4
Contracted Services	29,879	5.4
Utilities	662	0.1
Fuel, mileage, repairs	4,414	0.8
Insurance	5,173	0.9
Office Expense	6,051	1.1
Program Supplies	19,062	3.5
Advertising & Marketing	991	0.2
Meeting Expense	1,751	0.3
Rent	800	0.1
Storage	2,904	0.5
County weed program	10,000	1.8
Scholarships	6,000	1.1
Field Equipment	0	0.0
Computer Equipment	0	0.0
	<u>387,714</u>	<u>70.2</u>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<u><b>\$163,821</b></u>	<u><b>29.8%</b></u>
<b>BEGINNING CASH</b>		
MEAD principal received (Loaned)	<u>9,499</u>	
Revenues	<u>551,535</u>	
Expenses	<u>(387,714)</u>	
<b>ENDING CASH</b>	<u><b>\$1,449,367</b></u>	