



Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Meeting Minutes

331 E Cottage Park Drive Suite 1/ZOOM

July 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Webb at 5:56 p.m.

Meeting attendance Roster:

In-Person	Via Zoom Teleconference	Absent
Rhett Nelsen	Arlyse DeLoyola (Staff)	Janice Denney
Katrina Poydack	Kevin O'Brien IVWC	
Zachary Robinson	Katherine Mechling 6:02	
Matthew Robinson	Bradley Stokes, NRCS	
Robert Webb	Nan Xu, OSU	
John Bellville, Staff	Shelby Filley, OSU Extension	
Katrina Poydack 6:11		
Eric Nusbaum, ODA		
Beth Pietrzak, ODA		
Lydia Robinson, Guest		

Notes were taken by: Arlyse DeLoyola

- **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were presented to the board for review.
 - **Rhett Nelsen moved to approve the minutes as presented.**
 - **Zachary Robinson seconded the motion.**
 - **The motion passed unanimously, with Webb, Nelsen, Z Robinson, and M Robinson, voting in favor.**
- **Financial Reports:** The financial reports for June 2025 were presented to the board for review.
 - **Matthew Robinson made a motion to approve the Financial Reports as presented.**
 - **Rhett Nelsen seconded the motion.**
 - **The motion passed unanimously, with Webb, Nelsen, Poydack, Z Robinson, and M Robinson, voting in favor.**
- **Old Business**
 - **Thompson Creek Plan:** The previously presented Thompson Creek plan was discussed. Eric Nusbaum suggested that the IVSWCD approve a conservation plan by September and present it to the Soil & Water Commission for approval at their October meeting. Further discussion indicated agreement and no further action was taken.

- **New Business**

- **Expansion of Employee Roles:** John suggested that with the increased workload the District is experiencing we increase the roles of our Water Quality Monitoring team, changing Maelagh's title to Conservation Program Manager, and Carolyn, David and Carol's titles to Conservation Technician.

- **Rhett Nelsen made a motion to expand the roles of the water Quality Monitoring Team and change their titles to Conservation Program Manager and Conservation technicians.**
- **Kathy Mechling seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed unanimously, with Mechling, Nelsen, M Robinson, Z Robinson, and Webb voting yes.**

- **Key Access to Thompson Creek Tract**

John suggested that the district provide a key to the gate at Thompson Creek Tract to the neighbor, Jason Cowan. He would like to draft an agreement to allow him access to the property in exchange for monitoring it. Kathy asked that he be given a title, such as Docent, and that clear limitations be set in writing. John said he would work on a draft for approval by the board.

- **Matthew Robinson moved to establish a liability waiver and agreement for Jason Cowan to have access to the Thompson Creek Tract.**
- **Rhett Nelsen seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed unanimously, with Mechling, Nelsen, M Robinson, Z Robinson, Poydack, and Webb voting yes.**

- **Farm Stands:** Bob announced that the state was implementing new laws around farm stands. Discussion followed.

- **Katrina Poydack made a motion to make an official comment on the legislation expressing the hope that any new law refrain from adding further burdens on small farm operations.**
- **Rhett Nelsen seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed unanimously, with Mechling, Nelsen, M Robinson, Z Robinson, Poydack, and Webb voting yes.**

- **Staff Reports:**

- John began reviewing his report. He noted that the intern for Two Rivers had changed due to a Visa issue. He suggested that Board members should consider attending the OACD (Oregon Association of Conservation Districts) conference in October for which he has submitted a panel proposal.

- **Partnering Agency Reports:**

- John was asked to interrupt his report in order to allow **Bradley Stokes of NRCS** give his Partnering Agency Report, as he was having battery issues with his laptop. Bradley discussed the NRCS Technical Service Program, in which non-NRCS employees can become certified to assist NRCS with Technical Assistance on various projects. He

noted that the TCS program can be beneficial to the NRCS as well as the contractor. Qualifications include either a B.S. in the conservation field, or equivalent career experience of two or more years. These positions assist with projects in the field, helping farmers and other landowners with NRCS programs. Interested applicants should contact his office.

- **Shelby Filley of OSU Extension Service** was then introduced. She announced that after a shut-down of their office in Grants Pass which served Josephine County, they were now budgeted once again to offer some services to County residents. Her position covers Douglas, Josephine, and Jackson Counties. She stated she is willing to help in any way she can to further the mission of the District, and would be willing to provide educational programs at meetings, or other gatherings.

- **Beth Pietrzak, ODA Agricultural Water Quality Regional Specialist** then gave her report. She mentioned that she and IVSWCD Intern Abie Diaz had made a compliance visit this week to a former illegal cannabis site and she was very impressed with Abie's knowledge and ability to positively interact with the landowner with suggestions and her plant knowledge. Beth will be writing letters to a few landowners regarding various potential issues.

She also mentioned a "car-crusher" program that she participated in when she worked for Coos/Curry where they rented a car-crusher and offered services to remove and crush abandoned vehicles from area properties, which helped the area ecology. She thought such a program might benefit the IV.

Shelby Filley then asked about cleaning up abandoned Cannabis sites and what sorts of chemicals were being found in former grows.

- **Eric Nusbaum of Oregon Department of Agriculture** was introduced and spoke about the IVSWCD's recent growth. He cautioned that the District needs to be very careful to document what hours were spent on the Two Rivers SWCD programs and projects and what were IVSWCD's in order to maintain the separation between the two districts, in spite of the sharing of staff.

He will be offering his Public Official Orientation August 21st from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

He also commented that the OACD conference was a great opportunity and that the TSC program that Bradley Stokes spoke about has been very successful in Eastern Oregon. He encouraged anyone with qualifications to contact Bradley.

- **Kevin O'Brien of IV Watershed Council** gave his report, stating that Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board met this week and passed their spending plan, which gave the IVWC full Watershed Council funding. He applied for an Oregon Community Foundation grant last month, and is putting together an OWEB submission now, due on August 4th.

His two restoration projects have both had delays, but the Crooks Creek Large Wood Placement Project began this week. The Horse Creek projects has experienced delays around supply issues and will start after Labor Day. He will be meeting with the Bureau of Land Management to discuss further collaboration soon.

- **Staff Reports (continued):**

John Bellville resumed his report, updating the board on the status of the irrigation Modernization projects, Oregon Sig-Pod Collaboration, Water Quality Monitoring, and several other programs. He noted that he has been accepted into a Master's Program at OSU and has enrolled in the PMI Project Management Professional program and will pursue certification this month.

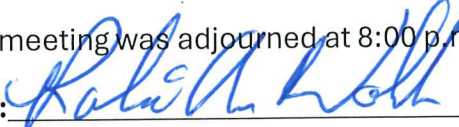
Arlyse DeLoyola reported that though she is currently in Texas caring for her injured daughter, she will be working remotely as much as possible and thanked the board for the flexibility to do so.

- **Public Comment:**

- There were no public comments.

- **NEXT MEETING:** The next regular meeting will be held August 28th at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes:  **Date:** 8.28.2025