

2026-2028 Strategic Plan

Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission



Vision Statement:

Effective Leadership – Successful Districts

Mission Statement:

To advise the Oregon Department of Agriculture and to Build Stronger
Conservation Districts for Oregon

Strategic Initiatives

Soil and Water Conservation District Communications

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission will facilitate and ensure good communication between Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Action Items:

1. Be an advocate for Soil and Water Conservation Districts in their communications and interactions with Oregon Department of Agriculture.
2. Collaborate with agency and partner advisors to communicate issues that affect Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
3. Ensure Oregon Department of Agriculture distributes summaries of Soil and Water Conservation Commission meetings in a timely manner.
4. Let districts know that Soil and Water Conservation Commission members are available for consultation and meeting attendance.
5. Oregon Department of Agriculture to provide report on health of District function. Soil and Water Conservation District Program staff will periodically provide Commission members with a summary of concerns that Soil and Water Conservation District Program staff are working through with individual districts and give members time to comment on the concerns. Use these lessons to teach all Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Best Management Practices.

Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity Assurance

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Oregon Department of Agriculture and its funding partners will actively participate in the maintenance and enhancement of Soil and Water Conservation Districts capacity funding and leadership building.

Action Items:

1. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Oregon Department of Agriculture will exchange information on current and potential funding needs and opportunities for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
2. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Oregon Department of Agriculture will exchange information on current and potential leadership training needs and opportunities for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
3. A Commission member will participate in the 2026-2027 OWEB Rules Advisory Committee for the Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity Grant, represent the best interests of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and provide updates to the Commission.

Commission Meetings

The Commission will meet at least quarterly at locations that are reasonably convenient for most participants with some geographic diversity. The meetings will be structured to involve key partners in ways that are beneficial to all. Attendance by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, partners, and Soil and Water Conservation Commission advisors will be encouraged. Option for audio visual attendance will be provided.

Action Items:

1. Attend local tours of Soil and Water Conservation Districts projects when appropriate.
2. Request that Oregon Department of Agriculture bring relevant emerging issues and Department policies to Soil and Water Conservation Commission meetings as appropriate.
3. Make sure at least a one-page summary of the meetings is made available within two weeks of the meeting so that Soil and Water Conservation Commission members and Soil and Water Conservation Districts have information and talking points available. These will be sent to District Managers as well as Soil and Water Conservation District Chairs.

Assist Oregon Department of Agriculture in developing policies related to Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission will advise in the development of policies with the Oregon Department of Agriculture in the administration of its duties and powers under ORS 561.400.

Action Items:

- 1.** Request Oregon Department of Agriculture keep the Soil and Water Conservation Commission updated on emerging and existing legislation and policy decisions affecting Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- 2.** Advise Oregon Department of Agriculture on natural resources programmatic matters that may affect Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- 3.** Create and facilitate work session days, part of Commission meeting, to work through changes to statutory language.