
Director Powers and Responsibilities

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Soil and Water Conservation District Program
503-986-4700
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/SWCD/Pages/Default.aspx>

Overview

“District Director” is the title given to individuals who have been elected or appointed to serve on a conservation district board. Oregon conservation districts are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. Conservation districts are considered municipal corporations, a form of local government that is required to follow many of the same laws that govern state agencies. Conservation districts are also essential partners with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and private landowners in implementing the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

Key Points

Powers of the Board

- Dillon’s Rule: A local government may exercise powers that are expressly provided for by law or are necessarily implied.
- Individual board members do not have individual powers and authorities.
- Individual board members may be given authority or power to act on behalf of the board.
 - Power is granted through board action and must be recorded in the minutes.

Responsibilities of the Board

- Attend and actively participate in all board meetings.
- Come to meetings prepared, informed, and on time.
- Carry out committee responsibilities.
- Represent the board positions and actions.
- Treat fellow board members and employees with respect.
- Stay abreast of local conservation issues.
- Attend area and state meetings of the state association.
- Participate in training opportunities.
- Promote the district’s work to local landowners, local and state agencies, legislators, and other organizations.

Tort Liability Insurance Coverage

- Covers employees, agents, and volunteers.
- Paid for by Oregon Department of Agriculture.
- Limited Coverage (may want to purchase additional liability coverage).
- Exclusions include:
 - Willful neglect of duty
 - Public Meeting Law violations
 - Personal property

Resources

SWCD Program Contacts:

Eric Nusbaum	541-846-6424
John Byers	503-986-4718
Manette Simpson	503-986-4715
Sandi Hiatt	503-986-4704

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/SWCD/Pages/Default.aspx>

Publication: *Oregon Soil and Water Conservation District Guidebook*
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/SWCD/Pages/Guidebook.aspx>

Applicable Laws and Rules

Governing Statutes
Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)
Chapter 568

ORS Chapter 568 can be found at:
https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/lawsstatutes/2013ors568.html

Additional applicable laws and rules can be found at:
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/NRLaws.aspx>

Five Basic Legal Requirements in ORS 568

1. Long-range Plan
2. Annual Work Plan
3. Annual Report
4. Annual Financial Report
5. Annual Meeting and Notice