

Charter for the Natural and Working Lands Committee of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Approved by the Board of Directors, February 27, 2024

The Natural and Working Lands Committee (Committee) is authorized by the OACD Board of Directors (Board) to function as a standing committee and actively support the Membership in promoting the protection and responsible management of working lands through easements and acquisitions and by actively participating in programs to provide incentives, funding, education and interactive partnerships around natural climate solutions and soil health.

Committee Members

The Board shall appoint a chair to lead the Committee. The chair is not required to be a member of the Board.

The Board shall appoint a Board Liaison to coordinate with the Committee, assure the charter is followed and to support the Committee's efforts. The Board Liaison shall be a member of the Board who has an interest in the Committee's work.

The Executive Director and/or other OACD staff shall assist the committee in performing its work and participate in the Committee on an ad hoc basis, working with the Committee's chair to effect coordination with the Board and Membership.

Committee members shall self-identify, committing to a minimum of 50% attendance at committee meetings and a willingness to take on assignments as necessary. Any directors and staff of OACD member Districts can request committee information and participate in meetings but will not be eligible to vote unless they have declared as a committee member and met the 50% attendance requirement.

Key Participants

The Committee shall work with the following key participants:

- Board. The Committee shall report to the Board and be accountable for implementing Board direction.
- Members: OACD members must receive timely information from the Committee and must be able to provide input to the Committee. The Executive Director will assist the Committee and its membership by coordinating opportunities for newsletter input, dissemination of white papers, and other communication and education forums.
- Partners: The Committee shall coordinate efforts as necessary with the Advocacy Committee in securing policy and regulatory support. Coordination with partners participating in related work will be important, including but not

limited to the Conservation Partnership (OACD, NOWC, COLT, OCEAN), federal (NRCS) and state (ODA & OWEB) agencies, Oregon Agricultural Trust, and other associations sharing natural resource issues.

Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

- Assist Districts to promote the responsible management and protection of agricultural, rural, conservation, and urban working lands through establishing educational and/or incentive programs, solely and in collaboration with partners.
- Research relevant policies, incentives, educational, and funding opportunities to promote the Committee's agenda.
- Develop position statements to provide to the Advocacy Committee for legislative, regulatory issues or other items where coordination with the Advocacy Committee can provide support.
- Prepare presentations, documents, or communications to share with the Membership through the monthly newsletter, the Annual Meeting, or other forums, and the OACD website.
- Lead the education of the membership in awareness of tools and materials that will enable district members to develop working lands projects and programs, providing training opportunities.

Decision Making

- The Committee shall strive for consensus decisions. If consensus is not possible, decisions shall be made by majority vote.
- Decisions requiring policy changes, legislative or regulatory action shall be brought to the Board for action and support.