

A simplified summary of SWCD Board authority and risk:

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the District and has the authority to carry out the items listed under “powers of Directors” listed in our enabling statute as well as anything implied and necessary to carry out those items directly listed in statute (such as the power to hire staff or open a bank account). These powers are granted subject to the oversight of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. We sign an annual IGA with ODA that grants our Board of Directors the powers given them by statute while retaining responsibility specifically assigned to ODA by statute.

Some of the Board’s authority is exercised directly; some is delegated through policies, the budget, job descriptions and specific instruction given explicitly in Board meetings by a majority of the Board. No individual Director has authority unless specific authority has been delegated to that Director by the Board as a whole.

As the governing body of EMSWCD, it is the Board’s responsibility to set policy; adopt the budget; set programs and strategic priorities; hire and supervise the Executive Director and oversee the management of the district’s affairs to ensure legal compliance and fiscal responsibility.

Directors acting within the scope of their responsibilities are protected from personal liability by tort protection legislation and our insurance policy. Any activities found to be outside the scope of a Directors responsibility may not be covered by this insurance.