



MWA Media Statement

August 24, 2026

The McKenzie Watershed Alliance, the 501c3 organization formed to act as the fiscal sponsor of the McKenzie Watershed Council, recently identified suspected financial irregularities involving payments between our organization and the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC). Upon discovery, both organizations took immediate action to secure our financial systems, notify our respective Boards of Directors, alert the appropriate legal authorities, and initiate a thorough review of our records. McKenzie Watershed Alliance has also informed our project funders and trusted partners and are working with them to address and mitigate any project impacts.

The McKenzie Watershed Alliance employee associated with this matter was first placed on administrative leave and, after further investigation, their employment was terminated. We are working closely with legal counsel, our financial institution, and our insurer, to protect the organization and strengthen financial controls and policies. We are also cooperating fully with all appropriate authorities including the US Department of Commerce Office of the Inspector General and the Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Activities Section.

Suspected unauthorized payments are estimated to exceed \$1.5 million. We initiated an independent forensic accounting review and have filed an insurance claim, while also exploring options for restitution.

While the process of addressing this issue is ongoing, our priority is to ensure accountability, strengthen financial controls, and maintain continuity of our programs and partnerships. We are committed to transparency and will share additional information as it is verified and appropriate to do so.

Jared Weybright

Executive Director

McKenzie Watershed Alliance