

## 2024 Partners in Conservation (PIC) Grant Review Committee

Approved by EMSWCD Board 12/4/23

### Mary Colombo\* (she/her)

*Founder and owner, Wild Roots Farm*

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A full-time farmer beginning in 2009, Mary Columbo has owned Wild Roots Farm since 2015. The farm uses conservation practices including minimal till and organics. Mary loves helping young and beginning farmers learn more about farming and shares her knowledge in formal and informal settings. She has a degree in geology and worked as a field geologist for five years before becoming a farmer. Born and raised in Oregon, Mary grew up in a small rural community outside of Portland. She credits her parents with instilling in her a deep love and appreciation of nature from a young age.

### Carlos Garcia (he/him)

*Senior Program Officer, Environment, Oregon Community Foundation*

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Carlos supports donors in environmental grantmaking and directs the Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative. Previously, Carlos was a senior philanthropic advisor for the San Francisco Foundation, a philanthropy advisor at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and associate director of philanthropy for The Nature Conservancy. He holds the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® professional designation and is a 21/64-certified philanthropy consultant to multi-generational families. Carlos also served as chair of the board of the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA), a national organization of nearly 200 funders. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology with a specialization in business administration from UCLA and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University.

### Mike Guebert\* (he/him)

*EMSWCD Board Vice Chair, Zone 3 Director*

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Mike Guebert earned his B.A. degree in geology from Humboldt State University. Retired as Metro Program Manager at the former St. Johns Landfill in North Portland, Mike worked with a small staff to monitor and improve environmental quality, operate and maintain a landfill gas extraction and re-use system, and make habitat improvements on the reclaimed grassland covering the landfill. Mike and his wife own and operate a small farm in Corbett, where they raise a variety of pasture-based livestock including dairy cows, goats, chickens, and turkeys. Mike is very active in the small farm community, serving on several committees and panels, often testifying to the state legislature in support of bills to help family farmers, and providing advice and assistance to beginning farmers.

Roy Iwai\* (he/him)

*Water Resources Specialist, Multnomah County Transportation*

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Roy Iwai is a water quality scientist with a passion for collaboration to improve watershed health. He has managed the Water Quality Program at Multnomah County since 2007. He leads several partnerships at the local and state levels, including the Clean Rivers Coalition, a collaborative partnership dedicated to creating the first statewide clean water outreach campaign in Oregon. Roy has a master's degree in Oceanography from Louisiana State University.

Belinda Nhundu (she/they)

*Grantwriter, Align Consulting*

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Belinda Nhundu is a dedicated grant writer passionate about empowering BIPOC-led and serving organizations. With a profound commitment to equity and justice, Belinda has honed her expertise by securing 10 million dollars in funding for initiatives in education, healthcare, and civic engagement. Her extensive background in grant writing and a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by BIPOC communities allow her to craft compelling proposals that resonate with funders seeking to make a positive impact. Belinda's work is distinguished by her ability to bridge the gap between innovative programmatic ideas and the financial support needed to bring them to life, ensuring that BIPOC organizations can flourish and continue their vital work in advancing social progress and community well-being.

Jared Pruch (he/him)

*Grant Management Specialist, Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District*

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Jared Pruch has a diverse professional background including leadership roles with school garden and environmental education nonprofits, managing grantmaking and community impact programs for United Way, and facilitating partnerships in rural food systems and wildfire recovery efforts. In 2023 he joined the Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District to lead the development of a new grantmaking program. Jared holds a Master's degree in Environmental Studies and a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Oregon. As a commissioner of the OregonServes State Service Commission, Jared oversees AmeriCorps programs in Oregon. In his free time, he enjoys enhancing his family's backyard wildlife habitat and vegetable garden with his kids and partner, long runs in the natural areas around Eugene, and backpacking in Oregon's wilderness areas.

Rhesa Ramdeen\* (she/they)

*Botanic Specialist, Community Gardens Program, Portland Parks & Recreation*

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Rhesa Ramdeen has an academic background in Environmental Studies and Naturopathic Medicine along with personal and professional interests in gardening and food/land justice. She is passionate about equitable access to nature, especially land for urban farming and gardening for the positive impacts on individual and public health, community resilience, and climate change mitigation. She previously worked within the Urban Lands team at EMSWCD and now works with the Community Gardens Program at Portland Parks and Recreation.

Eric Rosewall\* (he/him)

*Ecological Landscapes Program Coordinator, Portland Parks & Recreation*

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Eric Rosewall has a background in landscape architecture and construction and has been involved in the Portland region's open space system through numerous public and nonprofit organizations, including as executive director of Depave. He currently coordinates Portland Parks and Recreation's Ecologically Sustainable Landscapes Initiative - piloting high-impact landscape transformations that fill the urban nature gap.

Jina Sagar\* (she/her)

*Associate Natural Resources Scientist, Metro*

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Jina Sagar returned to Oregon after working as an ecologist in Wellington, New Zealand for seven years. In New Zealand, Jina focused on protecting endemic wildlife and restoring native upland and riparian habitats. Before New Zealand, Jina lived and worked in Oregon as a Research Scientist managing two monitoring programs for the Estuary Partnership along the lower Columbia River. She has worked across the state as a wildlife biologist and in land conservation for the Oregon Trust for Public Land. Jina earned her B.A. in Environmental Science/Conservation Biology from Middlebury College in Vermont and her M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Oregon State University. She has a passion for indigenous culture through her time in New Zealand and service in the Peace Corps in Madagascar.

Jen Shih\* (she/her)

*Grants & Enrollment Specialist, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District*

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Jen Shih grew up in the Portland metro area and, after living in several other places across the country, came back to raise her family. After studying environmental science in college, she gained experience administering and applying for grants while working at a conservation-based non-profit foundation, at a public university, and in local government. Jen has a background in urban planning and has taught nature-play classes for young children.

### Amy Stork (she/her)

*Business Owner, Amy Stork Consulting*

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Amy Stork has worked as a consultant, executive, and volunteer leader in the nonprofit and public sectors since 1996. She worked as the communications and marketing lead at Oregon Food Bank and the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development and as executive director of [TwispWorks](#), a special district and community economic development project in rural Washington. Her consulting work began in 2001 and includes a focus on strategic planning, staffing analysis, team building, and leadership/management coaching. Her clients operate at the intersection of the public and private sectors including many conservation districts, trail stewardship organizations, national park “Friends” groups, and more. Amy has worked with local conservation districts including Clackamas, Benton, and Curry SWCDs in Oregon as well as Placer, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino Resource Conservation Districts in California.

### Nicolas Townsend (he/him/his)\*

*Wellness Program Manager, Serendipity Center, Inc.*

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Nicolas has 15 years of experience in sustainable urban farming and garden education and fostered the development of the Growing Minds Garden program at Serendipity and has facilitated its growth over the past decade. Nicolas’ approach is holistic, interest-based and trauma-informed with the goal of meeting students and volunteers where they are and empowering them to grow their own food.

### Stacey Triplett\* (she/her)

*Director of Engagement, Oregon AARP*

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Stacey Triplett currently serves as engagement Director at Oregon AARP, serving more than 500,000 state members and a trusted force for social change. She previously was the Community Programs Manager at Worksystems connecting federal, state, and local support with community-based employment services providers to address community wealth creation. Her environmental work consists of prior roles with Nature in Neighborhoods at Metro and the Intertwine Alliance. She serves on Groundwork USA and Proud Ground Boards of Directors. *Ella habla español*. In her youth, Stacey was an exchange student and maintains that language immersion experiences change lives.

Charlotte Trowbridge (she/her)

*Education & Grants Program Manager, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District*

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Charlotte Trowbridge has worked for Tualatin SWCD since 2018, developing and managing their Conservation Education Program and Grants Program. She has an academic background in ecology and environmental policy. She has worked for nonprofit organizations and public agencies in positions focused on conservation research, natural resource mitigation and environmental education. She grew up in Portland and has focused her career on conserving and celebrating the natural environment in the Pacific Northwest.

Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky (she/her)

*EMSWCD Board Chair, At-Large Director 2*

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Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky received her B.A. in General Science from the University of Oregon and holds a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit and Public Management from Portland State University. Jasmine works for a regional environmental nonprofit. Jasmine is a lieutenant with the Corbett Fire District, and she and her husband manage a small blueberry farm on their property in Corbett.

\*Prior PIC grant review committee member