

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2024

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

2004 First St., Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Trevor Fields
Josh Hilderbrand
Nick von Borstel

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Joan Bird, County Commissioner
Theresa DeBardelaben, ODA (Phone)

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:33 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Additions: Education Grant added under action items

III. MINUTES

Nick moved to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023 Board meeting. Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Bank statements for December were presented and bills were presented through January. We are still waiting for the accountant to get us QuickBooks financials for November and December. Amanda called on this last week. Jess can make a call if needed. Amanda will check with the bank about getting the higher interest rate for the ICS account. Josh moved to approve the bills as presented and Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached

a. Grant Updates –

i. ODA—

- Working on Quarterly Report
- TA—2 Water developments, Fence, Haul Rd

ii. SIA—

- 1 Field Visit--scheduled

*Documents/attachments mentioned in minutes can be obtained by request

- Submitted Progress Report
- Restoration Grant App(s)
- iii. Small Grants—
 - Lower Deschutes (15)—
 - Lower John Day (16)—Working on a water development application
- b. Office Update
 - Container
- c. Other
 - Tree Sale—working on
 - Scholarship—Marylou sent reminder letters out to scholarship recipients to turn in transcripts
- B. Office Assistant
 - a. Outreach—See attached
 - **Watershed Model**-Marylou is taking the Watershed model to the 4th grade classroom on Wednesday, January 10th. The students will be learning about non-point source pollution. This is a hands-on, interactive demonstration of the sources of water pollution.
 - **Ag Calendar Contest**-Grades K-4 will be learning about agriculture in Oregon with an emphasis on Sherman County. Marylou will be going into the school during library classes. Each student will work on a poster depicting something grown or raised in Oregon. The posters will be judged first by FFA students and narrowed down to one 1st place winner per class by the SWCD Board. After local contest, all posters will be sent to State for judging. The State winners get \$50 and their artwork in the calendar.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Personnel
 - a. Open positions
 - i. Received 2 applications for the Tech position and 1 for the Watershed Coordinator position. Amanda will work on scheduling an interview for one of the Tech position applicants
- B. County Cost Share –
 - a. Applications—none
- C. Audit
 - a. Copies of the final audit were passed out to the Board along with a letter with adjustments from the auditor. Nick moved to approve the audit as presented and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously. There will be a phone-in meeting next week to approve minutes for the audit.
- D. Paid Leave Oregon

*Documents/attachments mentioned in minutes can be obtained by request

- a. Board reviews the current leave policy. The areas highlighted by the lawyer need to be reviewed and changes will have to be made. Decisions will need to be made about contributions, etc. The Paid Leave Oregon handbook had been emailed to all Board members. Joan agreed to talk to Debbie about how the County's policy is set up.
- E. Annual Meeting
 - a. The Board agreed to have the Annual Meeting with the Sherman County Wheat League again. Amanda will reach out to them about having the meeting at the Sherman County Fairgrounds on March 5th. The Board discussed possible food and drink vendors for the event.
- F. After Hours
 - a. We could plan for 1 After Hours public meeting at the Fairgrounds with lunch. Possible date of February 14.
- G. SWCD Cost List Update
 - a. An updated Cost List is presented to the Board. The new numbers were reviewed and Amanda will add "take out old fence" under Fence and add "pipeline practice" under Spring Development. A finalized Cost List will be presented at the next meeting.
- H. Pickup
 - a. The Dodge 2009 pickup needs upgraded. Because we are a special district, it must be sold through the bid process. Amanda will go through the policy regarding the rules for selling it and she will start looking for quotes for new pickups, both diesel and gas.
- I. Education Grant
 - a. Nels Swenson asked for \$2,000 from the Watershed Education Incentive Program. His FFA students competed in the State Soils judging and qualified to go to Nationals in Oklahoma. Other entities are contributing grants also. Nels can come to us if he has a need for more money for the trip. The Board would like a recap of the event. Trevor moved to approve \$2,000 for the FFA National Soils trip and Nick seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. ODA—Theresa talks about coming to SWCD meetings more, the importance of partnering. She states that the SOW report is due and that Amanda covered the SIA and the small grant opportunity information already.
- B. OSU—Jacob is putting on 2 local classes in The Dalles this month:
 - a. Mid-Columbia Soil Health and Soil pH Workshop, January 25th, 12:30pm to 5pm. Want to learn more about managing soil acidification and improving your farming practices to lessen the impacts of increasing soil acidity on dryland wheat production in your fields? Consider coming to this free workshop in Building 2, 3rd floor lecture hall, Columbia Gorge Community College.

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b. Beef Quality Assurance Training for Cow Calf Producers, January 23rd, 10am to 3:30pm. Beef Quality Assurance or BQA is a program designed to maximize consumer confidence and acceptance of beef by focusing cattle producer's attention to daily production practices that influences the safety, wholesomeness, and quality of beef products. This training cost \$10 and will be held in Building 2, 3rd floor lecture hall, Columbia Gorge Community College.

C. NRCS—not present

D. FSA—not present

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Jess asked about the Range Drill, can we get MCGG to do an inspection on it?

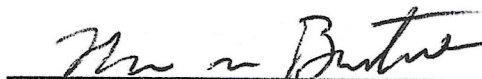
X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is February 13th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors January 18, 2024:



Jess Stutzman, Chair