

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2024

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

2004 First St., Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Nick von Borstel
Josh Hilderbrand
Trevor Fields

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Taylor Bullock, Watershed Technician
Joan Bird, County Commissioner
Misty Strayhorn, NRCS
Kara Lanthorn, FSA

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:31 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Executive session for ORS 162.660 (2)(i) & 192.660 (8) was added after Agency Reports.

III. MINUTES

Nick moved to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2024 meeting. Josh seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan reported that Eastern Oregon commissioners, along with others in the state, signed a letter to oppose the Rivers Democracy project, headed by Wyden. Joan also reported that there will be a public hearing about the Buckley Solar project at the Grass Valley Pavilion on October 1. The Speedway project has pulled out of intent.

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials were reviewed for June and July. August bank statements and June-August bills were reviewed. Board agreed to pay the OACD dues for another year. Nick moved to approve the bills as presented and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

- A. District Manager – See attached
 - a. Grant Updates –
 - ODA—

- TA—spring development completion, cross/boundary fence, haul road completion
- SIA
 - Funding
 - Monitoring update
- OWEB BDA Grant
 - Working on permits
 - Schedule site visit
- Small Grants—
 - Lower Deschutes (15)—Submitted 1 grant. Cross fence
 - Lower John Day (16)—None
- NRCS TA
 - IRA—GA signed
 - New funding

b. Other

- Audit
- Lower Deschutes CWMA—update
- Employee Recruiting/Interviews—meetings w/Cascade Employers Association
- New Computer—QuickBooks Update
- Updating Employee Handbook
- Pickup Sale

B. Office Assistant

a. Outreach—See attached

- **4H Camp**—decorated recycled material bags and wood rounds with forest stencils. 30 campers, 9 teen counselors. Nature hike was canceled due to flat tire on bus
- **Library Summer Reading**-read *Diary of a Worm*, inspected soil with magnifying glasses, made “worms and dirt” snack, and planted wildflowers in pods
- **Fair Table**—display was up at Sherman County Fair from Tuesday through Sunday
- **Youth Forest Crafting**—crafts were provided in the old beef barn for kids: animal habitats, nature journals, painting on recycled bags and wood, decorating wooden snakes, animal trackers, free books. We partnered with Sherman Library and Sherman Prevention.
- **Upcoming Outreach:**
 - NACD poster contest
 - Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (fish release at Burnet Pond)

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

- 5th grade Oak Springs hatchery field trip
- Monthly conservation lessons grades K-5

C. Watershed Technician

a. Outreach—See attached

- 314 & 315 training in Baker City, OR
- Intro to Wildlife training in La Grand, OR
- Stock Water training in Pendleton, OR
- Stock Water training in the field
- JAA approval for Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management & Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- CREP training with Rodger Lathrop
- Started 1 new CREP project
- Studying virtual fencing and have been to an online training informing us about company's advertising virtual fencing
- Gone on field visits by myself and with producers
- Taken monitoring photos and before photos
- Have learned how to start a plan for Grasslands CRP
- Tested water and provided samples for OSU at Fox Canyon and MacDonalds Ferry for Pacific Lamprey
- Have had telephonic meeting with producers and noting questions I'm not sure of
- Have helped Marylou with the education outreach including: fair booth, kids crafts, and Summer Reading
- "Revamped" our side-by-side box panels

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel

a. Open positions

- i. Watershed Coordinator position is still open. A recruiter was hired and started advertising the job in August. Amanda had 3 interviews, more scheduled this week. A second interview for a candidate will be set up with the Board. Someone on the Watershed Council should be at the interview also. Amanda will email the candidate's resume to those attending.

B. County Cost Share –

a. 1 new application

- i. Cross fence—pictures and map were presented. Total cost is \$19,998.46 for 4,454 feet; SWCD 75% cost share is \$14,998.85. Nick moved to approve and Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Board Training

- a. State of Oregon is requiring Board members to complete Public Meeting Laws trainings

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. NRCS—Misty reported it is the end of the fiscal year. All CSP contracts obligated as of today. Theron, Becky, and Taylor are working on some grassland CRP this week. Hitting payment limitations with CSP renewals because we don't have a Farm Bill. This fall, there will be another fire break meeting with the Fire Marshal, ODF, and others with discussion on where we want to focus our priority for fire breaks. 23 CSP contracts obligated this year. \$675,000 obligated for EQIP, will ask for over 1 million next year. A GS 11 position was hired to be shared between Wasco and Sherman Counties, housed in The Dalles office.
- B. FSA—Fall acreage reporting starting soon. No current Farm Bill, hopefully there will be a 1-year extension. There might be more information at the Wheat League meeting on September 16. Some ARC payments were made for barley, oats, and canola. There is some emergency grazing CRP available for anyone affected by fire in Oregon.
- C. OSU Extension—not present

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Executive session ORS 162.660 (2)(i) & 192.660 (8) to review employee performance was called to order at 9:51 am. The Board returned to regular session at 10:30 am.

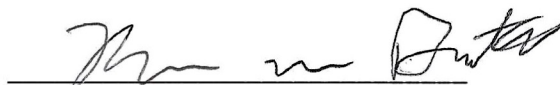
X. NEXT MEETING

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT


With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 10:31 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors October 8, 2024:



Jess Stutzman, Chair