

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2023

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

2004 First St., Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman  
Clint Moore  
Trevor Fields  
Josh Hilderbrand  
Nick von Borstel

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager  
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant  
Trent Gianella, ODFW  
Jacob Powell, OSU Extension  
Sandi Hiatt, ODA (phone in)  
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 was added under Tech Position. Meeting and Ethics Training was added under Other Business.

**III. MINUTES**

Clint moved to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023 Board meeting. Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Trent Gianella with ODFW stated that Andrew Meyers is the new District Biologist (replacing Jeremy Thompson) and Trent is the assistant. He gave an overview of things they have been working on. They are busy with hunting season, started surveying deer and elk. Also, they have been capturing and collaring big horned sheep, 50 this winter, looking for access from landowners along the John Day river. Focus is on adult survival, lamb survival, vegetation studies, and fecal analysis. He stated the big horned sheep of this area are the healthiest in the state. ODFW applied for a million-dollar grant for annual grass treatment, shrubs, mostly in the lower Deschutes wildlife area. The Primary focus is habitat work. He would like to partner with SWCD. They are looking for more landowners to enroll in programs. Still doing guzzler repairs.

**V. TREASURERS REPORT**

Financials and bills were presented through October, QuickBooks through September. Amanda will probably move some money from checking to savings. Amanda is still working with the auditors. Visa bills were higher than normal because of office supplies for the new building. It was agreed to pay the \$1,000 NACD membership again this year.

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

Clint moved to approve the bills as presented and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## VI. STAFF UPDATES

### A. District Manager – See attached

#### a. Grant Updates –

##### i. ODA—Received quarter 1 and 2 payments

- Lower John Day biennial review—attended Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> in Condon
- Field Visits—3 fence, 1 pasture

##### ii. Small Grants—

- Lower Deschutes (15)—Grant agreement signed
- Lower John Day (16)—waiting for grant agreement

##### iii. New Grants

- BDA Pilot Restoration—Submitted

- a. Site visit on November 30, taking a group of people out from the review team

#### b. Office Update—

##### i. Internet—still an issue, waiting for Blue Mountain Network to get back to us

##### ii. Supplies—ordered bookshelves, cabinets, and a TV mount for the wall

##### iii. Container—Amanda has a spot in mind for the container that would need to be leveled and some gravel brought in, will talk to landowners about that. We need to get the plotter over here to see if it still works

##### iv. Open House—over 40 people attended

#### c. Other

##### i. Lower John Day Working Group Annual Meeting—October 24<sup>th</sup> in Condon

##### ii. Conducted Interviews

### B. Office Assistant

#### a. Outreach—See attached

##### i. Poster contest—The five first place winning posters were sent digitally to be judged at the State level. The winners from that contest will be sent to be judged Nationally at the NACD annual meeting in February.

##### ii. STEP—

- Eggs were delivered on October 16<sup>th</sup> to grade 4 (Mrs. Wambold), and grade 5 (Mrs. Jones)
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade fish didn't survive—Marylou will be picking up some more eggs from the hatchery today so they can start over

- The 4<sup>th</sup> graders released their fish in the Pinkerton's pond last Thursday

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Personnel

#### a. Tech position

- i. Executive Session—ORS 192.660(2)(a) and 192.660(7) to consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent (moved to end of meeting)

### B. County Cost Share –

#### a. Applications—1 new application

- i. 1 boundary fence—pictures and a map were presented. Total cost is \$1,231.40; SWCD 75% cost share is \$923.55. Clint moved to approve and Nick seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

### C. Audit

- a. Still in process, Amanda has a meeting with them tomorrow

### D. OACD Election

- a. The Board was given packets with information about the candidates, took some time to review paperwork and each Board member voted on one East - At-Large candidate and two At-Large candidates. The results were tallied, and Amanda will send them in. Nick moved to submit the Board's votes. Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### E. New Director Eligibility (Moved to the beginning of the meeting)

- a. A new statute changed the Director eligibility. It states that the Director has to live in the zone that they are representing and manage more than 10 acres.
- b. Trevor is no longer eligible for Zone 2. Trevor resigned from Zone 2 effective immediately and Clint resigned from At-Large 1 effective immediately. Sandy heard and accepted both, declared vacant. She stated that they would both have to run in the 2024 general election.
- c. Nick moved to appoint Trevor to At-Large 1 and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Nick moved to appoint Clint to Zone 2 and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Trevor and Clint take the oath of office. Sandy gives signature authority.

## VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. NRCS – EQIP apps are due this Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>
- B. FSA– Kara mentioned Acreage Reporting, no Farm Bill yet. ERP for 2022 is the same as 2021. Kara doesn't anticipate many people qualifying for 2022, prices were up, yields good. Emergency grazing and LFP for cattle are available.
- C. OSU Extension—Jacob reported doing ODA pesticide trainings last week. There will be more on December 13<sup>th</sup> in The Dalles at CGCC and on December 14<sup>th</sup> in Moro. These trainings are free and qualify for continuing education credits. Call Jacob to sign up, registration not necessary. Working on having a soil management workshop

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

in January. Talked about disposing of triple rinse pesticide containers. We need to get 1000 containers together in order for the Tri-County Hazardous Waste to come out and collect.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Meeting & Ethics Training—Reminder to Board about training on November 30 at 5:30pm. Board members were urged to attend.
- B. Jess asked about helping people with the cost of repairing their guzzlers.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session—ORS 192.660(2)(a) and 192.660(7) was called to order at 9:43 to consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent. The board returned to regular session at 10:02 am. No decision was made.

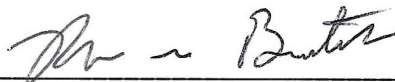
**XI. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room. The next Watershed Council meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

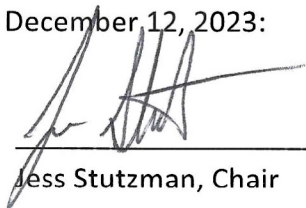
With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors December 12, 2023:



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Jess Stutzman, Chair