

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 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 (phone-in)

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Joan Bird, County Commissioner
Jacob Powell, OSU Extension
Amy Charette, OWEB
Brian Wolcott, OWEB
Misty Strayhorn, NRCS

I. ORDER

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

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Additions ORS 162.660 (2)(i) and 192.660 (8) was added to Executive session at the end

III. MINUTES

Clint moved to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2023 Board meeting.
Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. OSU—Jacob reported that CBARC wants to have a shared position between Moro and Pendleton at the Station. Kyle Harrison will travel to Moro as needed. The Station house will be used by him and also OSU staff/researchers. Jacob is finalizing the bio-stimulate results from the research that was done in the summer. He is working on Oregon Wheat Commission grants for more research at the Station. Upcoming trainings:
 - December 13th 1pm-5pm: Pesticide training in The Dalles
 - December 14th 1pm-5pm: Pesticide training in Moro (can get pesticide credits at both trainings)
 - January 23rd 10am-3:30pm: Beef Quality Assurance Training (BQA) in the Dalles
 - January 25th 12:30pm-5pm: Soil Health/PH workshop in The Dalles
- b. OWEB—Amy Charette talked to the Board about the OWEB grant cycle. Next cycle is in May. The last grant cycle closed in October; a review team is meeting in January. Brian Wolcott works on the Water Acquisition program,

purchases/leases water rights and Capacity Coordinator. He mentioned that he was impressed with the great number of projects coming out of Sherman County SWCD and Watershed Council over the years.

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials and bills were presented through October. In November SWCD had a significant amount of tax base come in, will show this in next month's Treasurers report. Visa bills were higher in the last 2 months because of various supplies needed in the new building. Internet will be a monthly charge—was installed Friday. Trevor 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—

- Field Visits—1 fence completion check

ii. SIA—

- 1 Field Visit
- Working on Progress Report
- Restoration Grant App(s)—Funding available, deadline in January

iii. Small Grants—

- Lower Deschutes (15)—Grant agreement signed
- Lower John Day (16)—waiting for grant agreement
 - a. Submitted Monitoring Report – 16-20-053

iv. New Grants

- BDA Pilot Restoration—Submitted
 - a. Site visit – Virtual (6 people attended)

b. Office Update—

i. Internet—installed

- ##### ii. Container—can put container on property, will need ground prep work and gravel hauled in, and someone to move the container. Amanda will work on this

c. Other

- ##### i. Plotter—no longer being serviced. Looking into a new one, NRCS might be getting one

- ##### ii. Lower Deschutes CWMA Update – Rod informed partners that there is no longer a Coordinator for this program. He did not apply for more funding. Amanda hopes to have a partner meeting in the spring to discuss the future of the program.

iii. Attended NRCS Irrigation Mtg

iv. Gave update to FSA County Committee

B. Office Assistant

a. Outreach—See attached

- i. Poster contest—2 of our Sherman County students got 1st place for their grade bracket in State. Helena Stuart, 2nd grade and Erin Burbank, 11th grade home schooler. Their posters were sent on to Nationals and the winner will be announced in February. Will try to get more Jr. High and High School involvement next year
- ii. STEP—The 5th grade fish didn't survive the first trout raising—I picked up some more eggs from the hatchery on November 15th and they got another try at hatching and raising trout. The trout were released into Jill Jones' pond on November 30th.

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—none

C. Audit

- a. Almost done, would like Board to review it within the next couple of days, may need special meeting to approve the final. Amanda will get ahold of auditors with some final questions. Also, QuickBooks reviewed one more time

D. Paid Leave Oregon

- a. Still working on other options, Joan will get back to Amanda about what the County uses

E. Annual Meeting

- a. Should we combine with Oregon Wheat again? Need to decide on date and location. Looking at late February or March

F. After Hours

- a. Looking at February dates, if anyone wants to host, let Amanda know. We will want to have 1-2 public and 2-3 private After Hours, looking at the middle of February

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. NRCS—Misty reported tentative EQIP funding for 2024, \$350,000-\$500,000. This is a significant increase in funding compared to previous years. Irrigation is funded through the new IRA funding —5 irrigation apps. Regular County EQIP includes livestock and fire; livestock water, fencing, prescribed grazing. Misty also reported on Climate Smart funding including irrigation, cover crop, prescribed grazing. Applications are accepted year-round. Misty introduced the new NRCS Conservation Tech, Theron Taylor. Theron graduated with a Natural Resource degree and lives in The Dalles. Misty encouraged everyone to make an appointment in January on

Tuesdays or Thursdays for CSP. If you can't make it to an appointment, your app from last year will roll over.

B. FSA—Kara not present, acreage reports due Friday

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. SDAO Annual Meeting, Amanda put flyers in the Board packets to look at, February 8-11 at Seaside

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

—ORS 192.660(2)(a) and 192.660(7) was called to order at 9:36 to consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent.

—ORS 162.660 (2)(i) and 192.660 (8) to review and evaluate the performance of an officer, employee or staff member.

The board returned to regular session at 10:25 am. The board discussed future hire of employees and end of year bonus. Clint moved to change probation period for new hires from 60 to 90 days, Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Amanda will move forward with hiring. Clint moved to approve \$1,500 bonuses for both Amanda and Marylou. Josh seconded and motion carried.

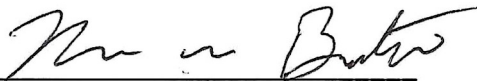
XI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is January 9th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room. May need special meeting to approve audit

XII. 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 January 9, 2023:



Jess Stutzman, Chair