

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2026

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Josh Hilderbrand
Brian Simantel
Ryan Thompson
Nick von Borstel

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Taylor Bullock, Watershed Coordinator
Tatiana Taylor, Conservation Tech
Joan Bird, County Commissioner
Vince Esposito, Brookfield

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Plotter map prices, put under Action Items

III. MINUTES

Nick moved to approve the minutes from the February 10th, 2026 meeting and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Bird thanked the SWCD for the Annual Meeting and great food.

Vince Esposito introduced himself as the senior manager of the Speedway project. He thanked the board for allowing him to speak at past meetings. He also mentioned he will be around the area for the next week and will be happy to answer any questions and left some business cards with his contact information. There is a public meeting at the Grass Valley Pavilion on April 15th, probably starting around 5:30. There will be stations in the pavilion for people to visit and ask questions, get information.

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials and bank statements through February were presented and reviewed by the board. Ryan moved to approve the financials as presented and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Brian-yes. Bills were reviewed. Brian moved to approve the bills as presented and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Jess-yes, Ryan-yes, Josh-yes.

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

VI. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached

- Staff meetings
- Annual Meeting
 - 65 total + FFA
 - Sponsors=\$4,200
 - Expenses=\$4,837.29
 - SWCD expenses=\$568.64
- Neighborhood meeting
 - February 18th Public meeting
- OACD Workgroups
 - Strategic Planning Workgroup
 - Board Workgroup
- Jones Canyon Fish Passage TA—OWEB Review Team site visit
- CCS
 - Site Visit w/Tatiana-pipeline and troughs
 - Cost list
- Small Grants
 - Team 15 (Deschutes) meeting
- Received Fund Requests
 - ODA-\$25,290.50
 - Council Capacity-\$27,843.85
- Working on Tree Sale
- Budget
- Safety meeting

B. Office Assistant—See attached

a. Community Outreach

- Annual Meeting
- Neighborhood Meeting
- SWCD Website & Facebook
- Tree Sale fillable form on Website

b. Education Outreach

- Conservation Awareness Program (CAP)-
 - School-3rd Grade-Journey of a Drop
 - Homeschool-Journey of a Drop

C. Watershed Coordinator—See Attached

a. WC:

- Put together Action Plan for 3.10 meeting

b. SG:

- 3 field visits for water developments

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

- Working on apps 2 water developments
 - 1 potential water development needs field visit
 - Submitted 2 applications
- c. NRCS:
- CREP re-enrollments
 - Assisting with CRP field reviews
- d. Outreach:
- OWEB and Watershed Council Updates-Neighborhood & Annual meetings
 - Presentations and decorations for Annual meeting
- e. Upcoming:
- Connect 2026 conference 3/31-4/2
 - Drone pesticides workshop 4/21
- f. Taylor presented the board with pictures for 2 small grant applications

D. Conservation Technician—See Attached

- a. Site visits/field work
- Field visit to certify fence project with Taylor
 - Field visit to start new CCS project for livestock pipeline with Amanda
 - Site visit to Jones Canyon with OWEB for TA grant
- b. Meetings
- Neighborhood Meeting
 - Safety Meeting
 - Annual Meeting
- c. Project work
- Archived photo digitization process
 - Gathered information to access county hold down rates for 2026
 - Gathered links and info on materials list for SIA monitoring
 - Project planning and prep for 1 CCS livestock pipeline
- d. Education
- Assisted Marylou with 1 school program and 1 homeschool program

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel

a. Employee Evaluations

- i. Amanda completed employee evaluations for staff. The board conducted Amanda's annual evaluation. Brian moved to increase Amanda to a GS 12-4 and Ryan seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Nick-yes. The board will let Amanda decide on employee increases. Brian moved to adjourn the meeting and Ryan seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Nick-yes.

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- B. County Cost Share
 - a. A new updated cost list for the County Cost Share was presented. Nick moved to approve the new changes to the cost list and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Josh-yes, and Jess-yes.
 - b. 1 new application
 - i. Pipeline and 3 troughs-pictures and maps were presented. Total cost is \$20,525. SWCD 75% cost share is \$15,000 and the match is \$5,525. Brian moved to approve the CCS application and Ryan seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Nick abstained from voting
- C. Public Meeting Policy
 - a. A sample public meeting policy was presented to the board for review. The board gave input about what information to add to the SWCD policy. Amanda will send it to the lawyer to review and a final draft will be ready for the board at the next meeting.
- D. Plotter Printer
 - a. Amanda presented a price list for the use of the plotter for maps, etc. Ryan moved to approve the price list and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Ryan-yes, Brian-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, and Nick-yes.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. NRCS-Misty reported that they have been working through EQIP/CSP doing CRP field visits. She had done some training with Tatiana and Taylor.
- B. FSA-Kara reported that General CRP sign-up is happening right now through April 17th. CREP continuous sign-up is through March 20th. Sherman County rental rates went up a little bit. Almost everyone is signed up for Bridge. No ARC/PLC sign-ups yet. FSA can't mail anything right now.
- C. OSU Extension-Jacob Powell mentioned the upcoming Farm Succession class in The Dalles at CGCC. It is on Tuesday, March 24th from 1:00pm-3:30pm, with a Zoom option. Jacob is looking at June 1st and 2nd for Crop Tour dates.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Budget Committee Meeting March 16th @1 pm
 - Lunch will be provided
- B. Board Training March 17th @ 10 am
- C. Sign Checks

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session-ORS 192.660(2)(i) and 192.660(8) was called to order at 9:45 am to review employee performance. The board returned to regular session at 10:44 am.

XI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is March 10th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Brian moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 am and Ryan seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Nick-yes.

Respectfully,

Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors April 14, 2026:

Jess Stutzman, Chair