Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2026
8:30 AM
USDA Service Center

Board Present	Others Present
Jess Stutzman	Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Josh Hilderbrand	Marylou Martin, Assistant Manager
Ryan Thompson	Tatiana Taylor, Conservation Tech
Nick von Borstel	Courtney Coelsch, Conservation Tech
	Kara Lanthorn, FSA
	Joan Bird, County Commissioner
	Gary Irzyk, Public Guest

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

II. **REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**
None

III. **MINUTES**
Nick moved to approve the minutes from the June 9th, 2026 meeting and Ryan seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes.

IV. **GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**
Gary Irzyk talked about dynamics and changes in the county. The SWCD got involved with Buck Hollow because we wanted to have some input. ESA was driver. There was a lot of buy in from producers. Now we see a big push for energy. Gary asked about erosion concerns. Nick replied that yes, erosion has been a big topic with the SWCD. Gary then asked what concerns the SWCD Board have. The Board replied with erosion, water quality, weeds, fire. Ryan talked about the issues with the solar project. Joan talked about County concerns. Joan stated that the County is working on an ordinance for a 20' road buffer along every fence along with them requiring 3-4 drone flights a year to check for problems. Jess asked about Buck Hollow ESA. This project was when they realized a top-down approach worked best. Gary also suggested doing some pre soil tests because soil degradation, bacteria, and soil health are concerns.

V. **AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS**
- **A.** NRCS-Misty talked about CSP certifications.
- **B.** FSA-Kara reported on Fire programs. No ARC/PLC sign-up. Should get 2025 payment in October. PLC should trigger. Acreage reporting. New system for fall reporting, staff will still help enter. We are not in a drought.
- **C.** OSU Extension-not present
- **D.** Sherman County- see above under Guest/Public Comment

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

VI. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials and bank statements for June, end of FY25-26, July, and August were presented. Nick moved to approve the financials as presented and Ryan seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes. Bills for June, July, and August were presented and reviewed by the board. Jess asked about the water quality monitoring supplies. Ryan moved to approve the bills as presented and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Ryan-yes, Nick-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes.

VII. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached
   a. OACD Workgroups
   b. Large Grants/Small Grants
   c. Meetings
   d. OSU Field Day & ORE Wheat 100 Anniversary
   e. Succession Planning
   f. Board Elections
   g. Conservation Tech Position-hired Courtney
   h. Audit
   i. Watershed Council Meeting prep
   j. Basin District Manager/WC post fire meeting, Antelope
   k. Energy Project
   l. Post Fire meeting for landowners w/FSA and NRCS

B. Assistant Manager—See attached
   a. Website, Facebook, Newsletter
   b. CAP-4H Camp, Sherman Fair, Poster Contest
   c. Grants-2 final grants submitted, 2 grants awarded, 1 pending
   d. Trainings-Budget Law, SDAO, HR Answers
   e. Other-Safety meetings, Audit, learning Quickbooks, Bills

C. Conservation Technician—See Attached
   a. Site Visits/Field Work
   b. Meetings
   c. Project work
   d. Trainings
   e. Education
   f. Other

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel
   a. Job Descriptions

B. Board Elections
   a. At Large 1

C. Audit

D. Board Vacancy
   a. Received resignation letter from 1 Board member

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Sign Checks

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

X. NEXT MEETING

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 am and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Ryan-yes, Nick-yes, Josh-yes, Jess-yes.

Respectfully,

Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors October 13, 2026:

Jess Stutzman, Chair

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