

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2025

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room
2004 First St., Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Josh Hilderbrand
Ryan Thompson
Brian Simantel
Nick von Borstel

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Taylor Bullock, Watershed Technician/Coordinator
Joan Bird, County Commissioner
Ellen Hammond, OACD (call-in)
Misty Strayhorn, NRCS (call-in)
Kara Lanthorn, FSA

I. ORDER

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

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

III. MINUTES

Brian moved to approve the minutes from the May 13th, 2025 meeting and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan informed us that Nick Weis has started as the new County Weed Manager position but the Planning Department position is still open.

Ellen Hammond was on the phone. She gave us her background of being retired from ODA and is currently working as the Jefferson County SWCD Conservation Specialist. She is on the OACD Board until the end of this year. The OACD board members are assigned to different Districts. Ellen is now the representative for Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, and Jefferson. The OACD helps SWCDs to be more effective, provides quarterly District Manager round tables, puts out a newsletter, hosts the OACD Annual Conference, offers webinars, works on getting SWCD stories out in the media, and advocates strongly with legislature. The OACD is constantly looking for funding to support SWCDs. OACD.org has a grant hub to identify and assess new funding opportunities. Staff and Board members can tune into OACD Board meetings or join committees to be more involved.

V. TREASURERS REPORT

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

Financials through May were presented, but not quite complete. Nick moved to transfer funds from the ICS account to the LGIP account, leaving a \$150,000 balance. Ryan seconded; motion passed unanimously. Bank statements were reviewed through May. May and June bills were reviewed. Brian moved to approve the bills as presented and Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

- District Manager – See attached
 - a. Submitted ODA Capacity grant
 - b. Attended 10 year anniversary meeting for John Day Basin Partnership
 - c. Working w/MM on Ford grant budget
 - d. Scholarship night
 - e. Cottonwood Canyon Field Day
 - f. Met w/SDAO insurance agent
 - g. Working on BDA permits
 - h. Working on funding options for Firebreak project w/ NRCS
 - i. Staff Meetings

- Office Assistant—See attached
 - a. Community Outreach
 - Citizen Reporter
 - b. Education Outreach
 - Conservation Awareness Program (CAP)-
 - Homeschool-Stream Table
 - 7 students
 - 7 adults
 - Grades 4 & 5-Beaver Dam Challenge
 - 40 students
 - 3 adults
 - Grades K-5 & Homeschool-Cottonwood Field Day
 - 135 students
 - 49 adults (presenters, school staff, parent volunteers, NRCS, SWCD, Watershed Council)
 - Grants-
 - Ford Foundation
 - PBUs (Ecology in the Classroom)
 - i. Finishing up budget
 - Roundhouse Foundation
 - Finishing up final report
 - Sherman County Cultural Coalition
 - Due July 3rd

- Watershed Technician—See Attached

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

- a. SG/LG:
 - 2025-2027 Capacity Grant; OWEB recommending our council for full funding; final evaluation July 22-23 at their board meeting in Pendleton
 - 218-6003 LG Monitoring terraces and WASCBs
 - 16-22-007 SG monitoring-cross fence
 - Working on CREP TA grant application
- b. CCS:
 - Field visits
 - 2 Spring Developments-Deschutes
 - Livestock Pipeline and Trough
 - Cross Fence
 - Haul Road completion check
- c. Outreach:
 - Attended the John Day Basin Partnership Meeting in Condon
 - Stream Table-Homeschool
 - Cottonwood Canyon Field Day-Watershed Council led a scavenger hunt
- d. Other
 - Working on pilot project for Virtual Fencing
 - Attended the OSU Extension Crop Tour on 6/4
 - Drone Pilot School

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Personnel
 - a. Pay increase goes into effect July 1
 - b. Vacant position-will revisit in the fall, Amanda will renew with Cascade Recruiting.
 - c. Leave-Amanda will only be in the office on Fridays during Harvest. The Board discussed giving health insurance on a case-by-case basis to employees who go temporarily part-time. Amanda will do some research on what is required
- B. County Cost Share
 - a. 1 new application
 - i. Spring Development, Trough, Pipeline—pictures and maps were presented. Total cost is \$8,758.99. SWCD 75% cost share is \$6,569.24. Brian moved to approve and Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed adding completion photos and monitoring to all CCS grants.
- C. Annual Work Plan
 - a. The Board reviewed the Annual Work Plan. Nick moved to approve the Annual Work Plan and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Accounting/Payroll

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

- a. There have been some issues with the Accounting and Payroll for a while.
The Board agrees that Amanda can look into some different options for both.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

A. NRCS –

- a. They are pulling back funds at the National level, revoked for the rest of the year, 75% of the hoped-for budget
- b. CSP-possibly funding 6-8 contracts if we are lucky, 3-5 contracts if we are not lucky

B. FSA –

- a. CRP sign-up ended Friday
- b. Still doing CREP first come first serve
- c. There are rumors of more ECAP
- d. FSA has a new trainee, Charles from Klamath Falls
- e. Grassland CRP-supposed to have a sign-up but we haven't heard yet

C. OSU Extension—Not Present

- a. Field Day tomorrow

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is September 9th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the board meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully,

Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors September 9, 2025:

Jess Stutzman, Chair