

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2025

8:30 AM

OSU Extension Office

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Josh Hilderbrand
Brian Simantel
Ryan Thompson

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Taylor Bullock, Watershed Technician/Coordinator
Joan Bird, County Commissioner
Jacob Powell

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:32 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

III. MINUTES

Josh moved to approve the minutes from the October 14th, 2025 meeting and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan mentioned that the Department of Energy is still working on the solar projects in Sherman County

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials for July-October were presented. They were in a new format; Board would like to go back to using budget vs actual instead of profit & loss vs budget. Josh moved to approve the financials as presented and Ryan seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bills were reviewed. Ryan moved to approve the bills as presented and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board approved to pay the NACD yearly dues. Amanda will try to increase the amount on one of the Visa cards.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

- A. District Manager – See attached
 - SIA
 - Monitoring Plan-Finalized
 - Lower John Day Ag Water Quality
 - Meeting December 10th The Dalles

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

- Weekly Staff meetings
 - Received Small Grant Team 15 grant for team leader (~\$20k)
 - Submitted By-Laws
 - Working on Fund Request (ODA, Council Capacity, SIA)
 - Attended OACD Conference, Pendleton
 - Conducted 1 interview for Tech Position
 - Insurance Renewal
 - Audit
- B. Office Assistant—See attached
- a. Community Outreach
 - Streamline Website & Facebook
 - b. Education Outreach (CAP)
 - NACD poster contest
 - 1 Homeschool entry
 - Ag students narrowed down to 3 winners per group
 - Justice of the Peace staff picked winners
 - Winning students received certificates and prizes
 - Winning posters sent to State for judging
 - STEP
 - 10/23/25 (12 students) Homeschool activities in the Justice of the Peace courtroom followed by field trip to Burnet Pond for fish release
 - 10/28/25 (27 students) 4th grade field trip to release fish at Burnet Pond
 - Pending Grants
 - Roundhouse (PBUs)
 - Gray Foundation (got work yesterday that we received \$11,690)
- C. Watershed Technician—See Attached
- a. CCS
 - 3 field visits for technical assistance
 - 2 Applications
 - 1 Certification check
 - b. Small Grants:
 - 1 certification check
 - c. Outreach:
 - Helped Marylou with the STEP program and fish release with 4th graders.
 - Attended the trunk or treat at the courthouse for the preschoolers
 - d. Conferences:

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

- Attended the OACD conference in Pendleton with Amanda Oct. 21-23
- Attended the CWMA Lower Deschutes partnership meeting with Dean Dark and Nick Weise
- Also sat in on the SIA partnership meeting

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel

a. Vacant Position

- Held one interview with candidate. Board should have received copies of the resume 2 weeks ago. Amanda will try to set up a second interview next Friday, November 21st.
- Advertising for other potential candidates will begin next week.

B. County Cost Share

a. No new applications

b. Taylor showed pictures from projects that were completed in September and October

- 1 Solar Water Development
- 1 Spring Development
- 1 Boundary Fence

C. Audit

- The Board reviewed the finalized FY24-25 Audit. Josh moved to approve the 24-25 audit as presented and Ryan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

A. NRCS-not present

B. FSA-not present, producers may call or stop by with questions

C. OSU Extension-Jacob -has been busy with first aid/farm safety trainings and online class. If farmers get new employees, they may take the online class whenever they want. Jacob is also working on a 3-year project researching and testing liming for dryland wheat, 2 locations in Wasco County and one location in Sherman County. OSU/Hood River Roundup pesticide trainings will be held in Hood River on November 18th-20th, with the test being on the 20th. If you just want to take the test, show up in person on the 20th. Pesticide credits webinar on December 5th, 9am-3pm. Pesticide credits in person on December 10th in The Dalles, 1pm. Pesticide credits at the OSU Extension office on December 17th at 1pm. There will be guest speakers.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. SWCD and Watershed phones need to be upgraded

B. Checks need to be signed

X. NEXT MEETING

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

Next meeting is December 9th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.
This will be preceded by the Watershed Council meeting at 7:30 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the board meeting was adjourned at 9:47 am.

Respectfully,

Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors December 9, 2025:

Jess Stutzman, Chair