Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2026
8:30 AM
USDA Service Center

Board Present
Jess Stutzman (call-in)
Josh Hilderbrand (call-in)
Nick von Borstel (call-in)

Others Present
Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Assistant Manager
Tatiana Taylor, Program Specialist
Courtney Coelsch, Conservation Tech
Kara Lanthorn, FSA
Misty Strayhorn, NRCS
Joan Bird, County Commissioner
Jacob Powell, OSU Extension

I. **ORDER**
Meeting was called to order at 8:45 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman

II. **REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**
No board work session after adjournment

III. **MINUTES**
Nick moved to approve the minutes from the September 8th, 2026 meeting and Josh seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Josh-yes, Jess-yes.

IV. **GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**
None

V. **AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS**

A. NRCS-Misty reported that the EQIP & CSP application deadline is November 13th. Applications do not roll over. USDA re-organization on hold due to federal litigation.

B. FSA-Kara said to check accounts for the 2025 ARC/PLC & CRP payments, need to enroll for 2026 crop year. Everyone with shares has to sign by December 11th. Acreage reporting deadline is December 15th. 2027 ARC after 2026 finished.

C. OSU Extension-Jacob reported being busy in the field. There is an ag hazardous waste event at the Wasco Event Center, sign up by October 15th. The Ag Mitigation Fund for Biglow Project is now accepting applications until the January deadline. SWCD will be eligible to apply for producers. Includes wildfire risk, fuel breaks, and other impacts to the local ag community.

D. Sherman County- Received word last week that PGE will submit 2nd amendment for Biglow solar/battery project. Still negotiating on tax abatement. Working on ordinance for required outside road and drone inspections. Meeting every other week with Department of Energy (DOE).

VI. **TREASURERS REPORT**

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

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

VII. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached
   a. Large Grants
   b. Small Grants
   c. Safety Meeting
   d. Staff Meetings
   e. Succession Planning
   f. Audit
   g. North Central Fire Meeting
   h. Energy Project
   i. Public Contracting Policy update

B. Assistant Manager—See attached
   a. Community Outreach
   b. Education Outreach
   c. Trainings
   d. Grants
   e. Other-Safety meetings, audit, learning QuickBooks, bills, policy

C. Program Specialist—See Attached
   a. Site visits/field work
   b. Meetings
   c. Project work
   d. Trainings
   e. Education
   f. Other-Bill Todd Nursery

D. Conservation Technician
   a. Site visits
   b. Education
   c. Meetings
   d. Other-newsletter, vehicle maintenance, Bill Todd, learning mapping, organizing files

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel - None

B. County Cost Share
   a. CCS application verbiage-Add "Applicant can only have one application open at a time & not be paid on more than one project in a calendar year". Nick moved to approve the additional language to the County Cost Share application and Josh seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Josh-yes, Jess-yes.
   b. 1 new application

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i. Haul road-map and pictures were presented. The road will be a total of 2,929'. Total cost is $6,209.48. SWCD 75% cost share is $4,657.11. Nick moved to approve the CCS application and Josh seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Josh-yes, Jess-yes.

C. Public Contracting Policy-Amanda sent out a draft with changes for Board review

D. Audit-should have draft by end of the week

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Sign Checks

X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be a week later on November 18th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Nick moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 am and Josh seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Josh-yes, Jess-yes.

Respectfully,

Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors November 18, 2026:

Jess Stutzman, Chair

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