

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2024

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

2004 First St., Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman (phone-in)

Nick von Borstel (phone-in)

Josh Hilderbrand (phone-in)

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager

Marylou Martin, Office Assistant

Taylor Bullock, Watershed Technician

Ryan Gardiner, Watershed Coordinator

Joan Bird, County Commissioner

Jacob Powell, OSU Extension

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:34 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Board will need to vote on candidates for the OACD election at the end of the meeting.

III. MINUTES

Josh moved to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2024 meeting. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

No guest comment

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials were reviewed through September. August bank statements and September-October bills were reviewed. Nick moved to approve the bills as presented and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached

a. Grant Updates –

- ODA—
 - TA—Assisting Taylor when needed
 - SIA
 - Monitoring update
- OWEB BDA Grant
 - Working on permits

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

- Site visit w/ landowner & Nick Weber
 - Small Grants—
 - Lower Deschutes (15)—1 cross fence app
 - Lower John Day (16)—attended small grant meeting
 - NRCS TA
 - Working on SOW for new funding
 - b. Other
 - Audit
 - Employee Recruiting/Interviews—meetings w/Cascade Employers Association
 - Updating Employee Handbook
 - Solar meetings
 - Lower John Day Work Group Meeting
- B. Office Assistant Outreach—See attached
- a. The Rolling Thunder newsletters—got sent out 10/4/24
 - b. Bill Todd Memorial—Community service clean-up (Sheriff's Office)
 - c. Conservation Awareness Program (CAP)—Funding from a Sherman County Education Foundation grant
 - d. Poster Contest—(K-12 and home school)
 - New this year: 10 posters from Jr. High and 6 posters from High School
 - FFA students judged posters K-6
 - State/National contest—first place winning posters will be sent to Wasco County for state judging
 - Local contest—first and second place winners will be awarded certificates and prizes at school
 - Elementary winners—gift certificates for Scholastic Book Fair
 - Jr. High and High School winners—art supplies
 - e. The Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP)
 - 4th and 5th grade participating
 - Aquariums set up in classrooms
 - One chiller broke down last Thursday. Some of the chillers are 18 years old. We are hoping to get new ones for next year, will look for grants/funding.
 - Received rainbow trout eggs from Oak Springs Fish Hatchery on 10/2/24
 - Most of the fry are hatched as of Monday, 10/7/24
 - Estimated fish release in local ponds—10/25/24
 - f. Upcoming Outreach
 - CAP lessons (second Thursday of each month)

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

- Making animal trackers and using them to identify tracks around classroom
- Short presentation about the SWCD (projects)
- Field trip with second grade to plant daffodils at Bill Todd Memorial
- Applied for Oregon Community Grant for school and community outreach 2025, waiting for notification, currently being reviewed

C. Watershed Technician—See Attached

- a. In the last month I have been motivated to get more County Cost Share Applications, and I have a few producers interested to know more when seeding is finished. I want to do more outreach and get more people interested in small grants, so I am going to try and make that a goal for next meeting. Also, I have been continuing my goal of getting my Planners Certification by continuing to go to trainings and trying to get more JAA.
- b. For our County Cost Share program, in the last month I have been doing a lot of out-reach and contacting producers that have mentioned wanting to do CCS and setting up field visits. I have looked at Stock Water and Cross Fencing with Amanda to certify, I alone have looked at three possible Cross Fencing applications, two being in the John Day side and one in the Deschutes side and I went out with Amanda and Nick to look at where the BDA's will be implemented, and we looked at what materials would be best used.
- c. I am currently filling out an SIA small grant application for a second phase of fencing. The application is due on the 24th of October, and I should hopefully have it submitted by next week
- d. For NRCS I went out into the field with Becky to do an initial Stock Water visit to learn how to plan the practice and looked at CRP. Misty has also told me that I will be helping with EQUIP.
- e. With education outreach, I was able to help for a few days with the Poster contest. And I will be going to the school with Marylou on Wednesday and Thursday this week to help her talk about STEP with the kids.
- f. I also just finished a three-day virtual training that covers soil health, this is a training that was for advanced and new planners. We learned about different practices for soil health, we came up with different scenarios to create management plans and present them. There is going to be a field training in Redmond to learn and perform soil tests later this month.

- g. Coming up on my calendar for October, the OACD conference with Marylou and Amanda in Hood River is coming up on the 15th and 16th. The second part of my soils training Oct. 22- 24th, in Redmond, OR. Lastly, I have a Cons Plan Business Tool Training that is virtual Oct. 29-31st.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel

- a. New Watershed Coordinator—Ryan Gardiner started Monday
 - i. Planning a Council meeting for December

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

A. NRCS—not present

B. FSA—not present

C. OSU Extension—Jacob Powell gave a report. He is working on the newsletter. There will be a beef quality training in The Dalles on November 13th. The OSU Extension hired Max McClennan as the new Service Station Manager. There will be a Tri-County hazardous waste disposal Friday, October 25th from 10-2. Pre-registration is required. Pesticide trainings are coming up in December. Jacob is working on a soil pH education/research grant for the county.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. There will be a solar meeting for landowners in Grass Valley on November 6th. ODFW, FSA, and NRCS will be there to talk about the permit process, concerns about wildlife issues, etc.
- b. The board voted yes for two candidates in the OACD election.


X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is November 12th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

XI. ADJOURNMENT


With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 8:54 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors November 12, 2024:



Jess Stutzman, Chair