

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2025

8:30 AM

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

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Josh Hilderbrand
Nick von Borstel
Brian Simantel

Others Present

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

I. BUDGET HEARING

Budget Hearing called to order at 8:32 am by Jess Stutzman. Open to public comment on FY 2025-2026 budget with a total of \$3,103,945.

II. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:36 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

III. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Two additions to the agenda, a resolution adopting the accounting basis and a Watershed Incentive Grant.

IV. MINUTES

Josh moved to approve the minutes from the April 8th, 2025 meeting and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan met with Representative Bentz' field rep and mentioned she thought they will be good for fire & BLM connection. She will send contact info to Amanda.

VI. TREASURERS REPORT

Bank statements through April and financials through March were reviewed. April and May bills were reviewed. Josh moved to approve the bills and financials as presented and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached

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

- a. Council Capacity Interview
 - b. Working on ODA Capacity grant (SOW due May 15th, App due May 29th)
 - c. District Manager Meeting
 - d. Submitted ODA quarterly report & fund request and received payment
 - e. Fence field visit w/Taylor
 - f. Staff meetings
 - g. Tree sale
 - h. Payroll service update
- B. Office Assistant—See attached
- a. Education Outreach
 - Conservation Awareness Program (CAP)—
 - Field trip with Grade 2/daffodils
 - Book reading at Wasco Preschool
 - Recycling theme
 - Beaver Dam Challenge with Homeschool
 - Arbor Day tree plantings with Grade 3
 - 2 Poplars
 - NRCS—Outdoor School
 - Grants
 - Ford Foundation
 - PBUs (Ecology in the Classroom), finishing up
 - Roundhouse Foundation
 - Starting to work on final report
 - b. Upcoming Outreach
 - Beaver Dam Challenge—grades 4,5
 - Stream Table—Homeschool
 - Cottonwood Canyon Field Day, June 3
- C. Watershed Technician—See Attached
- a. Trainings/conferences
 - Connect 4/8-4/10 in Florence
 - Watershed Council Conference 5/6-5/8 in Mackenzie River
 - b. CCS Field Visits
 - Boundary fence
 - 2 haul roads
 - Sagebrush removal
 - Certify cross fencing
 - c. SG/LG:
 - Capacity Grant interview 4/30
 - Monitoring

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

- Terraces and WASCBS
 - Spring developments
- d. Education
- Beaver Dams with homeschool
 - Tree planting with 3rd grade
- e. Tree Sale

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Personnel
- a. PLO Equivalent Policy renewal—sent in and approved
- B. County Cost Share
- a. 3 new applications
- i. 1 Haul Road—pictures and maps were presented. Total cost is \$10,059 for 493 feet of haul road. SWCD 75% cost share is \$7,544. Nick moved to approve, and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. 1 Sagebrush removal and 1 haul road—pictures and maps were presented. The sagebrush removal includes mowing and spraying. Total cost is \$12,248. SWCD 75% cost share is \$9,186. Brian moved to approve, and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. 1 Boundary fence—pictures and maps were presented. Total cost is \$15,951. SWCD 75% cost share is \$11,964. Brian moved to approve, and Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Budget Hearing—The budget hearing closed at 9:13 am with no public comment. Jess read the budget resolution to the board. Nick moved to approve the budget resolution for FY 2025-2026. Brian seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- D. Audit—SWCD received the engagement letter from Solutions. Josh moved to use Solutions again for our next audit and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Accounting Resolution – The audit has been using a modified accrual and modified cash basis for accounting. All of our books use a modified accrual basis so it was suggested to remove the modified cash basis from the audit process. Josh moved to approve the resolution adopting the modified accrual basis and discontinuing the use of modified cash basis. Nick seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- F. Watershed Education Grant – 1 application, requested \$2,000 for 4H Camp. Nick moved to approve the Watershed Education Grant and Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. NRCS – not present. Amanda reported that CSP ranking is due on June 1st. IRA is still on hold.
- B. FSA – CRP general sign-up started yesterday. 5 or 6 CREP contracts are expiring, up for renewal. If someone doesn't qualify for CREP, it could go to HELI. Grassland sign-ups are coming up.

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

C. OSU Extension—The Sherman Crop tour will start at the Experiment Station, June 4th at 8:00 am. It will conclude in Wasco around noon at the McGregor Customer Appreciation BBQ lunch in the city park. SWCD will provide coffee at the OSU building in the morning. The Wasco County crop tour will start at the OSU Wheat Variety plots, June 5th at 8:00 am. Sherman Station Field Day starts at 8:00am at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. Tractor safety will be on June 17 & 18. Still looking for a farm manager for the Sherman field office.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is June 10th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room. The next Watershed Council Meeting will be at 7:30 am.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the board meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Respectfully,

Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors June 10, 2025:

Jess Stutzman, Chair