Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2026
8:30 AM
USDA Service Center

Board Present	**Others Present**
Jess Stutzman	Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Josh Hilderbrand	Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Brian Simantel	Taylor Bullock, Watershed Coordinator
Ryan Thompson	Tatiana Taylor, Conservation Tech
Nick von Borstel	Joan Bird, County Commissioner
	Jacob Powell, OSU Extension
	Misty Strayhorn, NRCS
	Kara Lanthorn, FSA
	Kyle Blagg, community member

I. BUDGET HEARING

Budget Hearing called to order at 8:26 am by Jess Stutzman. Open to public comment on FY 2026-2027 budget with $3,400,113.

II. ORDER

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

III. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

One addition-Budget approval, at the end of New Business

IV. MINUTES

Nick moved to approve the minutes from the April 14th, 2026 meeting and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes.

V. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS

A. NRCS-Misty reported that there will be no EQIP funded this year. Issues that came up this year will be addressed and fixed, moving forward for EQIP next year. There will be a lot of field checks this summer for CRP.

B. FSA-Kara reported on grasslands sign-ups through May 29th. Also, everyone who applied got into general CRP. Still can't do ARC/PCL. A drought hasn't been declared yet so there are no cattle programs. Spring acreage reporting is due July 15th. Joan asked about the number of CRP acres in the county= 112,737. Nick asked about taking something out of grasslands and what that would entail.

C. OSU Extension-Jacob reported that this year's crop tour is June 2nd from 8:30am-12:00pm. Everyone will meet at OSU Extension. The Experiment Station day is June

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

10th at 8:30am, with the 100 year Oregon Wheat celebration at the fairgrounds later that day at 2:00pm. The Wasco County Crop Tour is June 1st.

D. Sherman County

- None

VII. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials and bank statements for April were presented. Amanda explained that the payroll still needed to be corrected by the bookkeeper. Brian moved to approve the financials as presented and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Nick-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Ryan-yes. Bills through May were presented and reviewed by the board. Nick moved to approve the bills as presented and Ryan seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Brian-yes.

VIII. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached

- Budget
- OACD Workgroups
  - Strategic planning
  - Board
- ODA-submitted fund request
- Small Grants
  - Two SG team meetings
  - Assisting Taylor w/completion reports & fund requests
- Public Meeting Policy-finalized
- Working on Fund Request-NRCS TA, SIA, Council Capacity
- Meeting w/State Parks on Deschutes weed management/fuel breaks
- GIS demo at the high school
- Speedway public meeting
- Rangelands workshop, Antelope
- Assisted Tatiana w/fence completion visit
- BDA grant-working on finalizing permits

B. Office Assistant—See attached

a. Community Outreach

- SWCD Website & Facebook
- SWCD Newsletter-sent

b. Education Outreach

- Conservation Awareness Program (CAP)
  - Homeschool
    - Upcoming: Sherman County Museum tour May 19th
  - School
    - Wetland Food Web-grade 5 (17 students)
    - Arbor Day shrub planting-grade 3 (19 students)
    - Lego challenge-grade 5 (17 students)
  - Earth Day

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- Wasco Co SWCD & North Central Public Health District supplied bare-root pines and native seeds to give away
    i. 21 youth (Grade 3)
    ii. 12 adults
- Grants
    - Applying for:
        i. Weir Foundation
        ii. Autzen Foundation
        iii. Pacific Power Foundation

C. Watershed Coordinator—See Attached
    a. SG:
        - Team 16 meeting 4.28, proposed 1 solar pump app.
        - Team 15 meeting 4.29 proposed 1 solar water dev. app.
        - 2 new applications for team 15
        - 1 completion report submitted for payment request
    b. CCS:
        - Assisting Tatiana with field visits
    c. Other:
        - CPR Training
        - GIS demonstration and erosion practice PowerPoint for Liz Cranston high school Earth Science class
        - 2026 CREP renewals for FSA
        - Cottonwood Canyon field day
        - Last day is June 5th

D. Conservation Technician—See Attached
    a. Site visits/field work
        - Certify CCS livestock pipeline
        - Certify CCS haul road
        - W/Taylor for Small Grant App. For water development
        - W/Amanda to certify CCS fence
        - W/Taylor to enroll new CCS for weed management
    b. Meetings
        - Lower Deschutes Small Grant Team meeting
        - Lower John Day Small Grant Team meeting
        - Staff Meeting
        - Safety Meeting
    c. Project work
        - Project planning for CCS to present at this meeting
        - Planted trees at Bill Todd and office
        - Completion report for haul road CCS
        - Completion report for livestock pipeline CCS
    d. Trainings:

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- CPR training
- CRP training
- ESA and ORWAC training with NRCS
- Ranchlands landowner workshop in Antelope

e. Education Assistance
- Food web game-grade 5
- GIS demo-science class

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel
   a. Watershed Coordinator
      i. Will advertise for the position as Watershed Technician. Possibly able to interview after the June board meeting

B. County Cost Share
   a. 1 new application
      i. Noxious Weed Management-pictures and maps were presented. The board discussed treating Rye & Canada Thistle, some of it on CRP ground. Brian moved to not fund the CCS application, which included noxious weed management in CRP land and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Nick-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Ryan-yes. The board also discussed that they will follow the Sherman County weed list when determining the approval of CCS applications.

C. Board Elections
   a. Jess (Zone 1), Ryan (Zone 2), and Josh (At Large 2) are up for Board re-elections. The deadline is August 18th at 5:00pm.

D. Health Insurance
   a. Health insurance is going up by 11%. After discussion, the board agreed to stay with our current plan. Ryan moved to raise the monthly insurance limit to $1,200 per employee and Brian seconded. Motion passed with Ryan-yes, Brian-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, and Nick-yes.

E. Watershed Education Grants
   a. 1 application
      i. Water conservation information flyer and watering timers & gauges (City of Grass Valley). Nick moved to deny the Watershed Education Grant for the information flyer, timers, & gauges and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, and Ryan-yes.

F. Scholarship
   a. The parent of a student who received a $3,000 scholarship from us wished to pay it back because the state paid for his CDL training. Jess questioned whether this student had any other expenses. The SWCD board then discussed the issue and decided that they would still like the student to have the $3,000 because the money could be used for other expenses, which falls

in line with what the scholarship is intended for. Amanda will call the parent to discuss the board's decision and offer to give the check back.

G. Cropland Structure Funding/TA
    a. Misty talked to the board about funding terraces. Staff does not have NRCS Job Approval Authority (JAA) for terraces and NRCS is not offering JAA to District employees. The board agreed that if someone wanted CCS terraces through us, they would have to provide their own engineer who was certified and follow the NRCS specs. It was decided to leave the terraces on the CCS list for now.

H. Budget
    a. Budget Hearing—The budget hearing closed at 10:56 am with no public comment. Jess read the budget resolution to the board. Brian moved to approve the budget resolution for FY 2026-2027 for the amount of $3,400,113 and a permanent tax rate of $0.26/$1,000 and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Nick-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, and Ryan-yes.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. The board would like someone from County Court to come to a SWCD Board meeting to discuss SIP money. Joan mentioned that the County met with Biglow about SIP yesterday. They are currently in negotiations. When the SIP money expires, then our tax base will go up, but that is being held up because of a lawsuit.

B. Will add executive session to the next board meeting

C. Sign Checks

XI. NEXT MEETING

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Nick moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 am and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Ryan-yes.

Respectfully,

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Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors June 9, 2026:

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Jess Stutzman, Chair

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