Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 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

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:33 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

III. MINUTES

Nick moved to approve the minutes from the December 9th, 2025 meeting and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Bird reminded us of the Speedway Solar public meeting Wednesday at 5:30pm and the Biglow Solar public meeting Thursday at 6:00pm, both in Grass Valley.

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials through December were presented and reviewed by the board. Nick asked about a transfer made from checking to savings, which was from the tax base. Ryan moved to approve the financials as presented and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Ryan-yes, Brian-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, Nick-yes. Bills were reviewed. Brian moved to approve the bills as presented and Josh seconded. Motion carried with Brian-yes, Nick-yes, Jess-yes, Ryan-yes, Josh-yes.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached
- NACD Fire Mitigation Grant-Submitted $70,719.25
- Attended Lower Deschutes Ag Water Quality-Meeting Dec. 10th The Dalles
  - Need more members
- Weekly Staff Meetings

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

- Small Grants
  - Team 16 (John Day) meeting
  - Team 15 (Deschutes) meeting
- Working on Fund Requests (NRCS TA, ODA, Council Capacity, SIA)
- Submitted SIA progress report
- Meeting with Brookfield Speedway team
  - Public meeting Jan 14th
- Meeting w/Deschutes SWCD DM about tax base
- Working on Tree Sale
- Long Range Plan
- Updated job descriptions
- Working with BLM & ODFW on Jones Canyon project-meeting 1/15

B. Office Assistant—See attached
   a. Community Outreach
      - SWCD Newsletter
      - Streamline Website & Facebook
   b. Education Outreach (CAP)
      - Conservation Awareness Program (CAP)-
        - Received all PBU kits, using 1st one this month at Homeschool Program
   c. Grants
      - Pending grants
        - National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
          - Arbor Day/tree planting activities for youth
          - Community Workshop

C. Watershed Technician—See Attached
   a. CCS
      - TA for completed border fence
      - Training Tatiana
   b. SG:
      - App for Cross Fence on team 15
      - Site visit planned for Spring Development
      - Completed Cross Fence in SIA area
   c. LG:
      - Progress report for Phase 1 & 2 Finnegan Creek Cross Fence competed
      - Met with Dirk Renner from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Jonathan Monacada from NRCS to do a site visit and look at BDA locations and adjust the plan that Anabranch had previously made. I also received JAA for BDAs during our visit
      - NRCS TA grant progress report submitted

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- ODA SOW report submitted

d. Other:
    - Attended Small Grant Team meeting
    - Drone test
    - Created PowerPoint for Homeschool program

e. Taylor presented the board with a cross fence map for a SIA small grant. Nick moved to approve the cross fence and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Josh-yes, Ryan-yes, Jess-yes.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel
    a. Health Insurance-the board discussed the possibility of contributing a percentage of health insurance for employees' families, as some other SWCDs have been doing

B. County Cost Share
    a. No new applications
    b. Taylor presented completion photos and a report for a County Cost Share border fence.

C. Annual Meeting
    a. The SWCD Annual Meeting was set for March 3rd at 4:00pm. 75 years of the Sherman County SWCD will be showcased. Ryan moved to set the resolution for the Annual Meeting on March 3rd at 4:00pm at the Grass Valley Pavilion and Nick seconded. Motion carried with Ryan-yes, Nick-yes, Josh-yes, Jess-yes, and Brian-yes.

D. Long Range Plan
    a. The long-Range Plan was reviewed with Amanda's changes and updated with new changes after input from the board. Nick moved to accept the Long-Range Plan with changes presented and Brian seconded. Motion carried with Nick-yes, Brian-yes, Jess-yes, Josh-yes, and Ryan-yes.

E. Board Training
    a. Amanda will set up a board training for March

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

A. NRCS-Misty reported that they are having 2-3 programmatic meetings per week, but so far nothing is in writing. Regenerative Ag program-money would come out of the EQIP budget, and Misty doesn't think this program will work best for Sherman County. Catastrophic Fire Program-lots of interest, producers are signing up. Priority area participants will rank higher but everyone can apply. The deadline is January 15th. All EQIP applications have rolled over from last year. CSP has not rolled over.

B. FSA-Kara-Fall acreage report is due February 2nd. Bridge payment training is on February 19th. It should be a pre-filled application and $39.35 per acre. Not sure when ARC/PLC signups are going to be, hopefully this year. Starting this week, Kaci and Kara

will be going to The Dalles once a week to help out. They are also working on getting temporary staff.

C. OSU Extension-Amanda gave an update for Jacob Powell—There is a drone training at the Extension Office on February 10th from 1:00pm-4:00pm. This is a free training for producers about spraying and imaging.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is February 10th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the board meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.

Respectfully,

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Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors February 10, 2026:

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Jess Stutzman, Chair

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