

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2024

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

2004 First St., Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman

Clint Moore

Josh Hilderbrand

Nick von Borstel

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager

Marylou Martin, Office Assistant

Joan Bird, County Commissioner

Theresa DeBardelaben, ODA (Phone)

Jacob Powell, OSU

Misty Strayhorn, NRCS

Kara Lanthorn, FSA

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:31 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(a) and 192.660(7) was added after Agency Reports; Education Grant was added under Action Items

III. MINUTES

Clint moved to approve the special meeting minutes from the January 18th, 2024. Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Bank statements for January, bills through February, and QuickBooks reports for November and December were presented. LGIP—is there a limit on total? Amanda will check, can you take money out easily, how to do that? We are well under budget; it's looking good right now. 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 –

i. ODA—

- Submitted Quarterly Report, still waiting to get paid

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

- TA-Several projects waiting for field checks
- ii. SIA—
 - 1 Field Visit-PV
- iii. OWEB BDA Grant (Pending)
 - Recommended for full funding-ranked 2nd
- iv. Small Grants—
 - Lower Deschutes (15)—Cross Fence
 - Lower John Day (16)—Working on a water development application
 - a. SG Team Meeting
- b. Office Update
 - Container
- c. Other
 - SDAO Conference
 - Lamprey Meeting-Statewide research needs 1 or 2 samples taken from the lower John Day
 - Tree Sale—April 1
 - Scholarship
 - CWMA—there was a partnership meeting yesterday to discuss the future of the program. The consensus was to keep the program if possible. Wasco SWCD might have staff that can take that on. Sherman SWCD can help in any way we can, need to continue this discussion. The BLM grant needs to be spent by the end of May.

B. Office Assistant

- a. Outreach—See attached
 - **Watershed Model**-Marylou spent time in the 4th grade classroom along with Mrs. Wambold's sister, Kathy. Kathy led the kids in experiments with water and pollution and Marylou brought the Watershed model. Several students participated in the Watershed hands-on presentation while everyone was gathered around to watch.
 - **Ag Calendar Contest**-The students will begin working on the calendar contest February 26th.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel

- a. Open positions
 - i. Still have 2 open positions: Watershed Technician and Watershed Coordinator

B. County Cost Share –

- a. No applications to present right now. Board discussed possibility of increasing CCS amount or wait for new budget. The Cost list prices have

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increased so much. Clint moved to approve increasing the CCS amount to \$20,000 with the District providing 75% cost share per year per project with a total of \$40,000 over 5 years per person and Nick seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Paid Leave Oregon
 - a. Joan Bird sent Amanda a copy of the county's policy, which was helpful. The board reviewed and gave input to the updated policy draft. Amanda will send it back to the lawyer.
- D. Annual Meeting
 - a. Meeting is set for March 5th at the Sherman County Fairgrounds in conjunction with Sherman and Wasco County Wheat League. Social hour is 5:00, agency updates 5:30, and dinner at 6:00. Catering will be by Kristi's Casual Catering, bartending by The Dirty Cowgirl.
- E. Public Update meeting
 - a. We won't be able to have the meeting on February 21st as advertised. It will probably need to be changed to February 22nd, if we still want to have the meeting. There hasn't been much interest from other agencies.
- F. SWCD Cost List Update
 - a. Final cost list was reviewed by Board. Nick moved to approve the new cost list as presented and Clint seconded. Motion passed unanimously
- G. Budget
 - a. Currently there are 2 open positions for Budget Committee. Keegan's term is up and he will not be on the committee any longer. Kevin McCullough has volunteered to be a member. Clint moved to appoint Kevin McCullough as a Budget Committee member for a 3-year term and Josh seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The 1st budget committee meeting should be April 3rd or 4th at 8:30 am. Amanda will work on scheduling and getting it advertised.
- H. Education Grant
 - a. Jessie Fields, NCLA Secretary, applied for a grant for the NCLA Spring Showcase. She is asking for \$1,000 for food and supplies. Josh moved to approve \$1,000 for the Spring Showcase and Clint seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. ODA—Theresa stated that they are continuing to work with landowners on SIA, planning site visits, checking on water quality. There will probably be another round of SIA project funding in the fall. Next week, Theresa will be meeting with Amanda to discuss monitoring within the SIA.
- B. OSU—Jacob presented updates to the board. He stated that the weather station at the Experiment Station is not working correctly, they need to put a new one in. There has not been any data since Kyle left. By summer he hopes to have a fully operating system. Extension is trying to put in AgriMet stations in Sherman County. They need to be close to irrigation, somewhat flat, and hopefully representative of the whole county. There are a few upcoming classes. February 21: Farm First Aid

training in The Dalles from 12:30-5:00; \$20. February 28: Pesticide training for 3 credits at CGCC in The Dalles from 1:30-4:30; \$20. March 1: Biological fertilizers webinar from 12:30-1:30.

- C. NRCS—Misty talked with the board about fire breaks. Currently there are 8 applications. More could be added if we put in more work and promotion. Can the SWCD assist NRCS in promoting? Misty would like to make this a county-wide implementation. Most are 30-50 feet, can be vegetative or bare dirt. The fire break would need to be maintained for 5 years. Can SWCD do a match of seed, herbicide, tech support, mapping? NRCS is putting in cisterns for other EQIP projects, can SWCD pay for a coupler? Jess asked about the negatives of putting in fire breaks. Could negatives include loss of base acres, loss of organic matter, erosion? Jacob said that the county is currently working on their Community Wildfire Protection Plan. He wants Misty to talk with Corey Michaels about CWPP for future grants. Misty wants to bring the rural fire departments on board. Amanda suggested talking to BLM to see if they have funds available. Joan reminded us that budget season is coming up for the county too.
- D. FSA—Kara reports that Sherman County is no longer in a drought and LFP is done. ARC/PLC needs to be done by March 15th. Landowners might still get another payment from ERP dating back to 2020 and 2021. CRP—not sure yet about general sign-ups.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

--ORS 192.660(2)(a) and 192.660(7) was called to order at 10:43 am to consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent.

The board returned to regular session at 10:54 am.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Jess talked about the budget and to look at salaries for new and current employees. Does leave and benefit package need to be updated?

XI. NEXT MEETING

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT


With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors March 12, 2024:



Jess Stutzman, Chair