

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2023

8:30 AM

OSU Extension Office

66365 Lone Rock Rd, Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Nick von Borstel
Trevor Fields
Josh Hilderbrand

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Joan Bird, Sherman County Commissioner
Misty Strayhorn, NRCS
Jacob Powell, OSU Extension
Theresa DeBardelaben, ODA

I. ORDER

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

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

III. MINUTES

Nick moved to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2023 Board meeting. Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Financials and bills were presented from June through September. Amanda will go through end of year and double check everything. 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. 221-6038—Submitted completion report and final fund request
- ii. 222-046—Working on completion report and final fund request
- iii. 219-9001—Submitted completion report & final fund request

- iv. ODA—Waiting on Grant Agreement for new application. Submitted final Quarterly report and fund request. Working on completion report. Will have to pay back some money
 - Lower Deschutes biennial review
 - Lower John Day biennial review
- v. Small grants—Attended SG Team 15 meeting and working with Wasco SWCD on new application paperwork
 - Submitted 1 monitoring report
- vi. New Grants
 - BDA Pilot (restoration grant in the lower Grass Valley Canyon)
 - TA for NRCS/Farm Bill support
- b. County Cost Share
 - i. 1 field visit for a haul road and 1 for a water development
- c. Building Update
 - i. September 19th—Punch Walk
 - ii. October 2nd—Tentative move in
 - iii. Planning an open house after move in
- d. Other
 - i. Outreach—Marylou
 - SWCD and the Sherman County Library hosted pollinator crafts, activities, and free books at the fair on Thursday. Saturday both entities hosted recycling crafts
 - SWCD participated in a bee/pollinator class at 4H camp in Goldendale. Present were grades 4-6
 - SWCD presented as part of “Community Helpers” day at the library summer reading program. Marylou took the watershed table
 - Teachers have received information about the Education Grant
 - Next week the students will be starting their conservation posters for a NACD nationwide contest, the local portion of the contest to be judged in October

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel

- a. Vacant Position--Amanda will advertise for the Technician position, write up a pay range

B. County Cost Share –

- a. Applications—1 new application
 - i. 2 Haul Roads—pictures and a map were presented. Haul Road #1 just needs gravel. The total cost is \$9,959, with district share at \$7,469.25. Nick moved to approve and Trevor seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Audit

- a. The files for the audit were picked up from our office last week

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. NRCS – Misty reported that 2 more people qualified for the CSP program. One was a beginning farmer and one who was historically underserved. CSP certifications and contracts are due by September 30. NRCS is hiring another technician. Becky's position has been so successful, that there will be several positions open in Oregon
- B. FSA– not present, working on CRP Grassland signatures
- C. OSU Extension—Jacob presented update on the bio-control wheat trials involving adding nitrogen to fields, stating that water is a limiting factor. He announced pesticide trainings in November and December, both in Sherman County and The Dalles. Also, there will be a Soil & Health workshop coming up this fall.
- D. ODA—Theresa had been working a job rotation with drought relief funding for OWEB. While she was gone, Maria filled in but now Theresa will be our point of contact again.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Joan will send Amanda information from last week's floodplain meeting
- b. Misty asked about the District donating outside tables for the new building. The Board was good with that. Just asked that staff come up with what they want and present to them. Amanda and Misty will work on getting a quote.

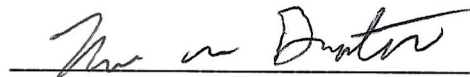
X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is October 10th at 8:30 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors October 10, 2023:



Jess Stutzman, Chair