

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 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
Joan Bird, Sherman County Commissioner
Misty Strayhorn, NRCS
Becky Hilderbrand, NRCS
Rod Asher, SC Weed District
Marcus Hendrickson, SC Weed District

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:32 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

III. MINUTES

Josh moved to approve minutes for the January 10th board meeting. Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Rod Asher with the Sherman County Weed District came to give an update on the Lower Deschutes CWMA. Tyler, who is the LD CWMA Coordinator couldn't be here but Marcus Hendrickson was in attendance and he will be helping Tyler with the CWMA. Rod handed out a report put together on the last years work done on the Lower Deschutes. They are currently trying to hire seasonals but are having a hard time finding people to work. They are going to contract out with Heart of Oregon again this year for seasonal work. Last year they received funding from BLM and used that to mostly treat annual grasses. The County has purchased a new UTV to be used for the CWMA. It is a Kabota diesel so it is heavier than other UTV's. The trailer they have been using is breaking down and not stout enough for the new UTV so they are looking at buying a new trailer. Many of their funders don't allow for equipment purchases so Rod asked if they could use \$2,000 of the money the District has allocated for supplies to help with the purchase. The Board asked if we had any restrictions on that money. Amanda looked at

the budget and it just says that money is for the Lower Deschutes CWMA. The Board agreed that it would be ok to use money to help purchase the trailer.

V. TREASURES REPORT

Financials were reviewed. Bills were presented. Nick moved to approve the bills as presented and Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached.

- a. Grant Updates – Working on funds request for three large grants. Submitted quarterly report for ODA. Gave the board an update on the SIA. ODA is wanting to move forward and Amanda expressed her concern in being able to put time into the SIA with the staff shortage. Jess has concerns about how ODA is allocating funds and how we were supposed to be able to use them for actual restoration work. The Board is going to send a letter to ODA to give them an update.
- b. Annual Meeting – Amanda gave an update on how the annual meeting went. There were about 60 people in attendance and she has gotten a lot of good feedback.
- c. LGIP Account – The new LGIP account is set up so we need to determine an amount to transfer. Amanda suggested transferring all but \$250,000 out of the ICS to get the higher interest rate. There is currently \$770,541.72 in the ICS so we would transfer approximately \$520,541.72 to the new LGIP. Josh moved to fund the new ICS account with the money from the Bank of Eastern Oregon account leaving \$250,000 in that account. Trevor seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. County Cost Share – No applications

C. Office Personnel

- a. Watershed Coordinator position – There was discussion about ways to get more interest. Amanda is going to update the pay scale and advertise in more places. There was also discussion about advertising for an Office Assistant. Amanda will finish putting together a job description and get it advertised.
- b. Building/Office Update – Amanda has been looking for bigger office spaces and came up with a couple options but we recently got an update on the new building and they are supposed to break ground soon. NRCS wants to wait to move their staff so it doesn't seem necessary for the SWCD to move to a larger space until we hire more staff. We will re-visit at the next meeting.

D. Policy Review

- a. Financial – Amanda handed out the financial policy that the board requested. The board didn't have any edits or additions. Amanda will send to the lawyer for review.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

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

- A. Tree Sale – Amanda is working on getting the tree sale order form out. She's getting started on it a little late so the deadline for orders will probably be around April 1st with pickup the middle of April.
- B. FY 22-23 Audit – Solutions CPA's send the engagement letter for the FY 22-23 audit. Trevor moved to approve hiring Solutions again for the audit. Nick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. NRCS – Misty introduced her new Conservation Technician, Becky Hilderbrand, who started yesterday. She let the board know that the Wasco Co. service center is closed due to a security threat until further notice. The IRA money is coming and there will be additional money for EQIP, CSP and other programs. There will be a limited number of practices this money will be able to fund. Misty is planning on having her or Becky in Moro 3-4 days a week. The new CSP signup will begin February 24th. There will be no roll over applications this year. Everyone will have to put in a new application. The local work group meeting will be March 14th following the SWCD board meeting.
- B. FSA – No one present.
- C. OSU Extension – No one present.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

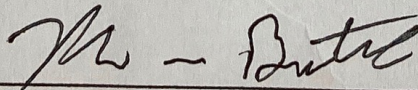
X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is March 14th at 8:30 am. There is a Watershed Council meeting prior at 8 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

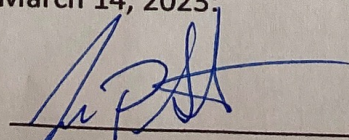
With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 10:19 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors March 14, 2023:



Jess Stutzman, Chair

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