

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2024

8:30 AM

USDA Service Center Conference Room

2004 First St., Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Nick Von Borstel
Josh Hilderbrand
Clint Moore
Trevor Fields

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Jacob Powell, OSU Extension
Joan Bird, County Commissioner

I. ORDER

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

II. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

III. MINUTES

Josh moved to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024 meeting. Clint seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Bank statements for March were reviewed. Bills through April were reviewed. Clint moved to approve the bills as presented and Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

A. District Manager – See attached

a. Grant Updates –

i. ODA—

- TA—spring/water development, haul roads, cross/boundary fence, riparian planting
- Working on Quarterly Report

ii. OWEB BDA Grant (Pending)

- OWEB Meeting April 22-24
- Working on permits

iii. Small Grants—

- Lower Deschutes (15)—
 - Lower John Day (16)—Water development application
- b. Other
- Tree Sale—picking up trees tomorrow
 - Scholarship
 - Budget
 - SWCD Manager Training—Condon
 - Solar Meeting
 - Employee Recruiting
 - CPR Training
- B. Office Assistant
- a. Outreach—See attached
- **Ag Calendar Contest**-The posters are to be judged by the SWCD Board today. I will present 1 winner from each class with a certificate and prize either at an awards assembly or during library class, however it works best depending on if/when the school has an assembly this month.
The Board chose the following winners:
 - a. Grade K: Baylor D
 - b. Grade 1: Bryndle D
 - c. Grade 2: Lilly A
 - d. Grade 2: Charlotte A
 - e. Grade 3: Stephe J (also got the Grand Prize)
 - f. Grade 4: Andres G
 - **Arbor Day**-I had a meeting with Julia Fall, she thought the trees that we are purchasing from McPheeters would be too big to plant at the school. We will be doing the Arbor Day planting with grades 3 and 5 at the Bill Todd Memorial. I am still working out the presentation details with the teachers. The classes can take a nature walk to the Memorial.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel

- a. Open positions
- i. Still have 2 open positions: Watershed Technician and Watershed Coordinator. We have 2 applicants to interview and 1 person from OSU interested in an internship this summer
- b. Employee Evaluations
- i. Will be done during executive session
 - ii. Once out of executive session Clint moved to approve moving Marylou up from step 5-3 to step 5-6. Nick seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Nick moved to approve moving Amanda up to GS 11-8. Josh seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. County Cost Share –
 - a. 6 applications
 - i. Cross Fence Construction—this is an addition to a previous CCS grant. Total cost is \$22,712.48; SWCD cost share is \$15,000. Clint moved to approve and Josh seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Roof Runoff Structure—pictures and map were presented. Total cost is \$6,798.09; SWCD 75% cost share is \$5,098.57. Trevor moved to approve and Clint seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. Haul Road—Pictures and map were presented. Total cost is \$20,000; SWCD 75% cost share is \$15,000. Nick moved to approve and Clint seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
 - iv. Boundary Fence—pictures and map were presented. Total cost is \$5,150.88; SWCD 75% cost share is \$3,863.16. Clint moved to approve and Nick seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
 - v. Riparian Restoration—pictures and map were presented. Total cost is \$4,531.76; SWCD 75% cost share is \$3,398.82. Nick moved to approve and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - vi. Haul Road—pictures and map were presented. This CCS application is tabled until the next Board meeting.
- C. Policy—Paid Leave Oregon
 - a. Edits need to be done on the PLO policy. Benefits must be spelled out in detail. Pay will be at 100%.
- D. Budget
 - a. The budget hearing will be right before the May meeting.
- E. Insurance
 - a. There will be no change in costs if we change agents. Have two options that we’re looking at.
- F. Pickup Upgrade
 - a. Made some calls, looking at around \$60,000, preferable gas
- G. Education Fund
 - a. Education Grant applications
 - i. Requested \$2,000 for 4H camp
 - ii. Requested \$215 for a 4th and 5th grade field trip to Maryhill Museum
Josh moved to approve the 2 education grants and Nick seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Scholarships
 - i. 8 students applied for the Watershed Education Incentive Program this year. Clint moved to award \$1,500 to each applicant. Nick seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. ODA—Not present
- B. OSU—Jacob stated that the Crop Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th starting at 8:30am at the OSU Extension. All stops haven’t been determined yet, they need

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

ideas, maybe some cover crops? Growers are interested in more new technology, drones. Sherman County Field Day is June 12th. Wasco County's Crop Tour is June 13th. The newsletter is going out this week. Kyle's position is going to be filled again. Deadline to apply is June 12th. This is a full-time position, bachelor's degree required. Jacob is looking for a summer intern, a high school graduate or higher.

- C. NRCS—Misty shared that they are not sure what will happen with CSP renewals since there is no new farm bill yet. She should know more by mid-May. There is a leadership meeting next week in Bend. Received \$350,000 for EQIP so far this year, hoping for \$300,000-\$500,000 more. There are a total of 40 applications. On April 29th there is a Fire meeting to be attended by people from the State and local fire fighters. They will be looking into firebreaks, cisterns, prescribed grazing, etc. There is a new OWEB rule that a permit is needed for water storage of 3,000 gallons and up.
- D. FSA—Kara talked about the weed control requirements for CRP. People can do spot mowing and spraying. Not a lot of interest in CRP sign-ups right now, not many people expiring. ARC/PLC Acreage deadline to enroll is September 30th. Grasslands sign-ups are anticipated for May. Farm Bill progress is uncertain.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session

--ORS 192.660(2)(i) and 192.660(8) was called to order at 10:44am to review employee performance. The Board returned to regular session at 11:30 am.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is May 14th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center conference room.

XII. ADJOURNMENT


With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am.

Respectfully,



Nick von Borstel, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors May 14, 2024:



Jess Stutzman, Chair

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