

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2020

8:30 AM

Old Moro Elementary School

302 Scott St. Moro, OR 97039

SWCD Board Meeting - Teleconference

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Josh Hilderbrand
Thad Eakin
Clint Moore
Trevor Fields

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Emily Freilich, Watershed Coordinator
Taryn Asmus, Watershed Program Assistant
Joan Bird, Sherman County Commissioner
DelRae Ferguson, NRCS
Theresa DeBardelaben, ODA
Emily Huth, NRCS

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

II. ROLL CALL

Went through roll call to confirm who was present on the phone. All above were present.

III. MINUTES

Trevor moved to approve minutes from the March 10th board meeting. Clint seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Amanda added Tree Sale and Budget under Old Business.

V. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

No guest comment

VI. TREASURES REPORT

Amanda had emailed out the financials prior to the meeting for the Board to review. There were no questions or concerns.

The bills were also emailed out for review. Trevor moved to approve the bills to date and Clint seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Watershed Council Updates – Emily gave a quick update. See attached. We were granted a \$500 grant for the pollinator garden. She gave an update on the status of OWEB funding due to COVID-19. If grant agreements were not signed by April 1st then funding will be postponed. They extended the spring grant deadline to May. Our Council Capacity funds should not be affected by this.

B. Taryn Updates – Taryn gave a quick update on some things she's been working on. A couple things include the pollinator plant list, boundary fence application, safety meeting ideas and a vehicle maintenance log/schedule. Amanda also asked the Board about getting a hotspot for the office that Taryn could use while working from

home. Once this is over it would be used out in the field. The Board was ok with that.

- C. ODA – The Board had originally requested to do a producer meeting for the SIA prior to anything else in the process. However, because of COVID-19 Amanda and Theresa thought it would be best to have a virtual partner meeting to continue the process. Partners will include staff from ODA, Sherman SWCD & WC, Wasco SWCD, OWEB, ODF, DEQ and NRCS.
- D. Policy Review – No policy review. New policy will be discussed under new business.
- E. Tree Sale – Amanda said she got an email from McPheeters Turf and they would really like us to come get the rest of the trees we had reserved. Amanda said she will take a trailer down Wednesday and Taryn will arrange pickup with the customers while abiding by the social distancing rules.
- F. Budget – Amanda asked what the Boards thoughts were on conducting budget committee meetings virtually. She is ready for the meetings but was waiting to hear if there would be extensions. The Board would like to plan to have the first budget committee meeting at our next meeting. She will work on getting that advertised and update the Board on any changes that the governor might pass.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 – Amanda gave the Board an update on how COVID-19 is affecting the District and it's operations. Staff is still working from home all but one day a week in which they alternate with NRCS. OACD has been good about communicating with the District Managers about operations and policy. One thing that was passed was that we are required to provide two weeks of Sick and Family Leave for COVID related reasons. Amanda emailed a policy that would cover this and go over in detail what leave qualifies for this new sick leave. Trevor move to approve the new policy affective April 1st through December 31st, 2020. Clint seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Amanda will keep the Board updated via text or email on any changes that may happen involving the virus. Trevor asked how/if funding has been affected by the virus. Right now any grants we have open will be funded. They are not accepting any new grants at this time. ODA Capacity grant will be more lenient about how funds are used.

IX. NRCS REPORT

DelRae reported the EQIP deadline is Friday, April 17th. At this point there won't be any extensions but there may be a second sign-up due to the virus. CSP dates are the same as of right now. May 29th is the general sign-up deadline. All of the CRP contracts were approved. A total of 146 contracts for Sherman County. The deadline is September. She is still waiting for the applicant list and information from FSA.

X. AGENCY REPORTS

FSA – Kara was not able to call in but she gave Amanda a few things to report. All CRP bids got accepted and they are working on getting the contracts and plans done. Also, CREP sign-up is happening and anyone with an expiring contract will be contacted by Kayci or Kristie to see if they want to re-enroll.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Timesheets – Timesheets will be signed when we meet in person.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

No executive session was called due to meeting via phones.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 at 8:30am.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am.

Respectfully,

Thad Eakin, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors May 12, 2020:

Jess Stutzman, Chair