

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2020

8:30 AM

Old Moro Elementary School

302 Scott St. Moro, OR 97039

SWCD Board Meeting - Teleconference

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Trevor Fields
Thad Eakin
Clint Moore
Josh Hilderbrand

Others Present

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

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 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

Thad moved to approve minutes from the May 12th board meeting and May 12th and 28th budget committee meetings. Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Amanda added Director Positions under new business

V. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

No guest comments

VI. TREASURES REPORT

Financials were reviewed. Jess asked how we looked for the fiscal year and we are below budget.

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

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Watershed Council Updates – See Emily’s report attached. Emily had reported that she is now part of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Government Relations Committee. Jess asked for a little more information about the committee. Emily was asked to be a representative for Eastern Oregon. Amanda said it all came about because they had been working with the Networks Executive Director to try and get Emily access to the Network website and mailing list and she asked if Emily would be interested. Amanda thought it would be a good opportunity for her as well. Jess asked how many people attended the meeting and Emily reported that there were 8 people on the call.

B. Taryn Updates – See attached. Taryn has been working on outreach and projects the District could provide to community members that aren’t farmers/ranchers. One

- thing she came up with is a rain barrel program. She is trying to get barrels donated but she thought the District could keep 3-4 rain barrel “kits” in stock to provide at little to no cost. Staff could also put on workshops to show how they are set up, how they work and the benefits of having one in your yard. After discussion the Board thought this was a good idea and agreed to get a couple kits in stock to see how much interest we have. Taryn would also like to do a pollinator sale. After discussion it seemed that if it was held with the annual tree sale that would be the best.
- C. County Cost Share – Before grant applications were reviewed Amanda brought up some verbiage in the grant agreement that states a landowner can not apply for funding more than 3 times in 5 years. The Board discussed if they wanted to continue with that wording or if there was a better way to run the program. Clint thinks we should do a dollar cap per year on projects. Jess said he understood but thought there should also be limitations. Amanda stated that the previous Board put that stipulation in for a reason. It was determined that staff needed to make this aware to grantees when they are coming in to apply. They are working on a tracking spreadsheet to easily see how many projects each landowner/producer has done and in what time frame. After discussion it was decided to leave the verbiage as is and readdress the grant agreement at our September meeting. Trevor suggested maybe setting a certain dollar amount per year for specific projects (i.e. so much \$ for haul roads, terraces, fence, etc). Amanda will have information on how much we allocate each year for those specific projects. After this discussion it was determined 2 applications were not eligible for review.
- The 1st haul road application was reviewed. It was for 881 feet on the John Day side. Clint moved to approve, and Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- The 2nd haul road application was reviewed. This application was for 1,800 feet on the John Day side. This haul road was in range and expired CRP that will be going back into crop. There was question about the location of the road and if there was a resource concern. The Board decided they would not fund the haul road until the ground was in crop because they did not see a resource concern. The road had a good grass stand and didn’t seem to have wind or water erosion.
- D. ODA – Amanda reported that we are still waiting on the OWEB board to determine what the status of the SIA will be. She did say that ODA staff had been trying to do preliminary surveying with imagery but they were not able to access a taxlot layer for the County.
- E. Office Personnel – No business for office personnel
- F. Policy Review – No policy to review
- G. Budget – Thad moved to approve the resolution (attached) adopting the budget for FY 20-21. Clint seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- H. COVID-19 – The office is now in phase 1 of reopening. Guidelines are provided by FPAC and FSA is the lead office on the reopening. All staff will be able to be in the office as long as they can follow social distancing but appointments with producers are still phone appointment only. Phases are a minimum of 14 days apart.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

A. Scholarships – Amanda went over the 7 scholarship applications that we received this year. All applications were reviewed and all but 1 application met the criteria of the scholarship. Trevor moved to award scholarships in the amount of \$833.33/ea to Jordan Barrett, Meghan Belshe, Savannah Moe, Wyatt Stutzman, Kevin Hart and Max Martin. Clint seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. 4-Wheeler – Amanda reminded the Board that they had decided to review if we needed to keep the 4-wheeler or sell it after a year of having the Ranger. The Board would like her to get an idea on what the minimum amount would be if we were to surplus it and what the process entails. She will have info at the next meeting.

C. Annual Work Plan – Amanda had emailed the annual work plan for review prior to the meeting. The Board had no changes to what she sent. Thad moved to approve the 20-21 Annual Work Plan. Clint seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Directors Positions – There are 2 positions that terms will expire this year. Thad and Clint will both be up for re-election. Amanda let them know that if they want to run again to let her know so she can get them the election packet sent by ODA.

IX. NRCS REPORT

DelRae didn't have much to report. They are working on CSP and CRP. She said that CSP will be very competitive this year because there isn't as much money.

X. AGENCY REPORTS

FSA – No report from FSA

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

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

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jess called for executive session for ORS 192.660(2)(i) & 192.660(8) to discuss employee performance at 10:25 am. Regular meeting was called back into session at 10:30 am.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at 8:30am unless there is a need to meet prior.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully,

Thad Eakin, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors September 8, 2020:

Jess Stutzman, Chair

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