

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2020

8:30 AM

Old Moro Elementary School

302 Scott St. Moro, OR 97039

SWCD Board Meeting

Board Present

Jess Stutzman
Josh Hilderbrand
Thad Eakin
Trevor Fields
Clint Moore

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Emily Freilich, Watershed Coordinator
Joan Bird, Sherman County Commissioner
DelRae Ferguson, NRCS
Kara Lanthorn, FSA
Theresa DeBardelaben, ODA (Call In)

I. ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 8:37 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

II. MINUTES

Josh moved to approve minutes from the December 10th board meeting. Thad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Amanda added an application for the Watershed Education Incentive Grant under New Business.

IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

No guest comments

V. TREASURES REPORT

Amanda has not received financials from Regina for December yet. She will email reports once she has them.

The bills were reviewed. Trevor moved to approve the bills and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Watershed Council Updates – See attached report.

a. Grant Updates – See Emily's report.

i. Large Grants

1. Monitoring Reports – Up to date
2. Completion Reports – Working on DEQ completion
3. Fund Requests – Final sent for DEQ grant
4. New Grant – Submitted LGVC Weed Grant application

ii. Small Grants –

1. Applications – There was 1 new applications

- a. 16 Application – This was for a terrace reshape project. Total cost is \$11,769 with the OWEB amount \$8,633. Clint abstained from voting due to conflict of interest. Thad moved to approve and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously, minus Clint voting.

2. Monitoring – 1 monitoring report complete
 3. Completion – Up to date
 4. Fund Request – Up to date
- B. County Cost Share – There were 3 applications to review. The first was for terrace reshapes on the Deschutes side. Thad moved to approve the terrace reshape project and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The second application was for a haul road on the John Day side. Josh moved to approve the haul road project and Thad seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The third application was for a phase 4 haul road on the Deschutes side. Trevor moved to approve this phase of the haul road and Thad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. ODA – Theresa DeBardelaben called in to talk to the Board about the SIA process. Amanda handed out a map of the different HUC options for the Lower Deschutes along with information on the process. Sherman County wasn't set to do an SIA this year but another County is short staffed so she would like us to take their place. She talked about how the SIA is a partnership between SWCD's, DEQ, ODFW, OWEB and ODA. We can select an area to be the priority then there will be a partner meeting once that area is chosen. This should have by July. Then the SWCD is able to apply for a Technical Assistance grant through OWEB in the fall for up to \$100,000 along and \$25,000 in monitoring. She said that in the spring of 2021 is when we would start landowner meetings. The process takes about 4 years from start to finish. There is some concern from the board that we are being forced to do this and that the landowners should have an option on if they want to participate. The only time ODA would force someone to participate is if they were out of compliance. Amanda asked about state and public lands that are in the area. Theresa said that the State lands would be looked at but not Federal or Tribal. The board would like more information on the potential SIA areas such as how many landowners, taxlots, etc. Staff will have that for them at the next meeting. They would also like to be able to do landowner outreach prior to the partner meeting. Amanda will check with Theresa on this.
- D. Office Personnel
- a. Watershed Program Assistant Position – Will discuss interviews in executive session
- E. Policy Review – Jess had asked to review the Comp time policy because they had some questions after the last meeting. Amanda handed it out. They did find a discrepancy in the policy on how many hours can be accrued. There is also a bullet point in it about having to use your comp time by the end of fiscal year. After discussion on that it was decided to take that out. Amanda will make the edits and present for approval at the next meeting.
- F. Annual Meeting – The resolution for the annual meeting was presented and states that the Annual Meeting for FY 18-19 will be held on March 10, 2020 at 6 pm at the Grass Valley Pavilion. Clint moved to approve and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Emily has been working on finding a guest speaker/presenter. Troy Forrest from the Utah Dept. of Ag would like to come and present. He has given presentations about the use of livestock for wildfire mitigation. The cost for him will be travel and lodging.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Watershed Education Reserve Grant – Dan Son with the Lower Deschutes CWMA applied for Outreach materials, supplies and boot brush stations to place along the Lower Deschutes river. Total requested amount is \$2,000 with a match of \$9,000-\$11,000. Clint moved to approve and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NRCS REPORT

- DelRae gave the NRCS report. She let the Board know that the Local Work Group meeting will be February 11th at 11am following our Board meeting at the Extension Office. The SWCD will

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

sponsor lunch. We will discuss potential funding pools for EQIP. She also wanted to let everyone know that Toolkit (the mapping program used) is going away in March and will be replaced by Conservation Desktop. This will require staff training and may slow some things down for plans. She said the ranking program is also changing. These changes will be a learning curve for staff so could cause delays. They are now accepting applications for CSP and EQIP but do not have a deadline yet. DelRae and Emily both attended the Direct Seed Conference last week and NRCS staff talked to a WeedIt representative about how to incorporate cost share for the equipment.

IX. AGENCY REPORTS

FSA – Kara reminded the Board that there was a producer meeting tomorrow, January 15th at 6pm at the Sherman County School to go over the new CRP sign-up. There will be another meeting January 28th at the Extension Office at 10am. March 15th is the ARC/PLC sign-up deadline. Thad asked about the next MFP payment. Kara said there is no date for the 3rd payment but it will be \$4/acre. She reminded everyone that if there are changes to farming operations they will need to know asap. Insurance info will need to be turned in for WHIP.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Sign Timesheets – Timesheets were reviewed and signed by the Board
- B. Board Officers – Clint moved to keep the officers the same for another year. Thad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jess called executive session at 10:01 am for ORS 192.660(2)(a) and 192.660(7) to consider employment and ORS 162.660(2)(i). The Board returned from executive session and the meeting was called back to order at 10:48 am. Trevor moved to hire/offer the job of Watershed Program Assistant to Taryn Asmus and to authorize Amanda to determine pay. Clint seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th, 2020 at 8:30am at the *OSU Extension Meeting room*.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully,

Thad Eakin, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors February 10, 2020:

Jess Stutzman, Chair

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