

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2020

8:30 AM

OSU Extension Office

66365 Lone Rock Rd, Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman  
Trevor Fields  
Clint Moore  
Josh Hilderbrand  
Thad Eakin - phone

Others Present

Amanda Whitman, District Manager  
Emily Freilich, Watershed Coordinator  
Taryn Asmus, Watershed Program Assistant  
Joan Bird, Sherman County Commissioner  
Jacob Powell, OSU Extension

**I. ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 8:01 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

**II. MINUTES**

Josh moved to approve minutes from the September 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

No additions

**IV. GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jacob Powell, OSU Extension agent, reported that they are hiring a new station director for CBARK (Columbia Basin stations including Moro) because the old director retired. There is a new fire program that hired 4 new positions but they have not hired for our area yet. Pesticide exams are still hard to take because of lack of testing centers. The location that was at the college in The Dalles has closed indefinitely. There are online webinars through OSU for Pesticide Safety Education to get credits. On Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be grazing management webinars. November 6<sup>th</sup> is a train the trainer workshop. Oregon Wheat League has their shop talks every Wednesday. This year the Hermiston Farm Fair is only going to be 1 day and for irrigated crops only. Jacob is working to get some webinars put together for dryland crops.

**V. TREASURES REPORT**

September financials were not available because Amanda hadn't gotten the Quickbooks back from Regina. She will email reports once she has them.

The bills were reviewed. Trevor moved to approve the bills. Clint seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Watershed Council Updates – See Emily's report attached. Emily met with Ryan from Wasco County to go over Buck Hollow information. She is working on a lamprey grant and a CIS to submit through NRCS. Jess asked about the monitoring for the SIA. The proposal has to be submitted before we can ask for funds.

B. Watershed Technician Updates – See attached. Taryn gave her update. She wrapped up the work she was doing for DelRae on CSP and has been working on the SIA.

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

C. County Cost Share

- a. Applications – There are 3 grants to review. The first is for a Haul Road on the John Day side. There was conversation about a section of it that they want to re-route. Jess suggested that staff look at the new addition prior to laying any gravel down. Clint moved to approve contingent on the new section being checked by staff first. Josh seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The second grant is for a cross fence. It is for 2,969 feet totaling \$7,630. The cost share is \$5,722. Trevor moved to approve the project and Clint seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The third grant is for a Haul Road. This road already has some shale on it but the producer wants to gravel it so that it will last longer. There was discussion on whether or not this had been funded before. Staff will double check. Clint moved to approve the haul road and Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Other – Amanda told the Board that she had a producer that came in and asked to refund the District money that he got paid on a project so he could do something different. Amanda said she had told him that we do not do that but he wanted her to ask the Board. The Board said that whatever she decided is what they will support.
- c. Boundary Fence Application – Amanda passed out the application for the Board to review. She went over some of the things staff had questions on. The Board wanted to make sure that it states the fence must be all metal including H braces to make it a “lifetime” fence. We also need to add that the District will not pay for labor just materials, there is no minimum length and that if there is an old fence it must be removed. Staff will make those changes and have a final application for the Board to approve at the next meeting.
- D. ODA SIA – Amanda gave a quick update on the SIA. We are currently working on the TA grant to submit by October 30<sup>th</sup>. ODA has finished the remote evaluation and they are working on scheduling the field evaluation. They will also be sending letters out to landowners with more information.
- E. Office Personnel – No business for office personnel
- F. Policy Review – No policy to review
- G. COVID-19 – Nothing new
- H. 4-Wheeler – Amanda presented the resolution to sell the 4-Wheeler. Clint moved to approve the resolution declaring surplus property. Trevor seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board would like to put a minimum of \$1,000 and to advertise locally first.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. No new business

**VIII. NRCS REPORT**

DelRae introduced her new employees, Lauren Healey and Morgaine Riggins. Morgaine has been here since July and Lauren just started today. NRCS staff has finished up the CRP plans. There were 146 total. 8 out of 28 CSP applications were funded. All of those contracts are complete. DelRae thanked Taryn for her work on those. They met the

September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for the CSP documentation to be turned in and will start making payments on those contracts. The deadline for payments is November 6<sup>th</sup> but she is hoping to have them done much sooner.

**IX. AGENCY REPORTS**

FSA – No report from FSA

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 8:30am. Location TBD

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business of the board meeting was adjourned at 9:01 am.

Respectfully,

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Thad Eakin, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors November 10, 2020:

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Jess Stutzman, Chair