

Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2020

8:30 AM

OSU Extension Office

66365 Lone Rock Rd, Moro, OR 97039

Board Present

Jess Stutzman  
Trevor Fields  
Thad Eakin  
Josh Hilderbrand

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 8:45 am by chairman, Jess Stutzman.

**II. MINUTES**

Thad moved to approve minutes from the June 9<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 he has been on 3 different hiring committees. One is for a Soil & Water Quality Specialist that will cover the whole state. He has also been working on annual producer meetings to take place of the Tri-State Grain Convention since it was cancelled. The meetings will be online and probably a couple hours a day. He's also been working on an updated wheat enterprise budget. Jacob said he would like to get some cheat grass trials going and is looking for interested producers to have it in their chem-fallow. Another trial he is looking into is using volunteer wheat as more of a cover crop. He's been looking into funding for trials to see if it would improve soil water capacity. Trevor asked about getting pesticide credits and if its all online or if there will be any in person offerings. Right now online is the only options. Jacob is working on getting credits for the producer meetings he will be holding in Nov/Dec (in place of the Tri-State Grain Convention). If you are wanting to get your applicators license the only testing sites are Portland and Pendleton and there are not many spots open.

**V. TREASURES REPORT**

Financials were reviewed.

The bills were reviewed. Thad asked about the Weed District Payment and if it was for the CWMA. Amanda stated that it was for the OSWB grant for 2019 and that we had contracted the weed district out for the work. Trevor moved to approve the bills. Thad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Watershed Council Updates – See Emily’s report attached. Emily reported on the BDA tour they took to Gilliam County. The Board had some questions about the function of the BDA’s. Taryn suggested maybe taking the board on a field trip to see the work done over there. They seemed interested in that. Emily also reported on the in field terrace training they had with NRCS staff. She said it was helpful and that the engineer thought staff had been surveying correctly and going about the reshapes the right way. The spreadsheet we use had a few things that may be off so Emily will send it to him on the next project she surveys.
- a. Small Grants – There are three small grant applications to review
    - i. Cross Fence (15) – The cross fence is a phase 3 and is 3,854 feet. Total project cost is \$11,371 with the cost share equaling \$8,257. Trevor made a motion to approve the cross fence on the Deschutes side. Thad seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
    - ii. Solar Water Development (15) – This water development is on the Deschutes side and will consist of a pipeline going from an existing cistern to another pasture. It will include pipeline, troughs and a solar pump. The total cost is \$12,384 and the OWEB cost share is \$8,302. Thad moved to approve this project. Josh seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
    - iii. Water Development (15) – This is a solar water development on an existing windmill well. It will include the solar pump, trough and pipeline. Thad asked if the well worked. It is the landowners job to make sure they have water and that it’s working. Amanda asked that Emily contact the landowner to see the status and make sure that he knew that if it was funded and the materials were installed but it ended up not working that they would not be reimbursed. Total cost for this project is \$10,148 with the OWEB cost share at \$7,238. Thad moved to approve this project on the Deschutes side and Trevor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Taryn Updates – See attached. Taryn gave her update. Amanda said that now that Taryn has been with the District for a while she feels like her job title could use a change. She suggested Watershed Technician because Taryn has been filling more of the technician roll, working on CREP, CRP and CSP. The Boar all agreed that was a good title. Trevor asked if she had training to complete because of the work she’s been doing. She will work on job approval and getting the required NRCS training done this winter.
- C. County Cost Share –There is 1 application for terrace reshapes on the John Day side. This project is in expired CRP that will be going back into crop. It is 9,523 feet with a total cost of \$10,000 and cost share of \$7,500. Thad moved to approve the grant and Josh seconded. Motion passed with Trevor abstaining from voting due to conflict.
- a. At the last meeting the Board wanted to re-visit the discussion about the project agreement. Amanda asked if they wanted to make any changes. Last meeting there was discussion about changing the number of projects or

making a dollar cap per project type. Amanda asked if the Board was still thinking about making some changes. There was discussion about how 3 projects in 5 years is still a good amount of projects and money and that it should stay the same. The spreadsheet that is used to track projects and years was handed out for review. Consensus was to keep the project agreement as is. The Board would also like staff to have the fence project presented at the next meeting now that we are meeting in person for review.

- D. ODA – Theresa called in to give an update on the SIA. At the May planning meeting the group finalized the boundary. Remote evaluations are in progress but they will take longer than normal because of the size of the SIA area. SWCD staff is working on getting a letter out to landowners. After the remote evaluation is complete then there will be on the ground visits for sites that they say could use work during the remote evaluation. The aerial imagery isn't always accurate. Work on monitoring and the monitoring plan are also starting to take place. Staff have a meeting with Ellen today to go over the plan process. Theresa said that things are looking good from what they've seen in the remote evaluation. Amanda reported that she also has a call on Thursday with OWEB to go over the grant timeline and funding.
- E. Office Personnel – No business for office personnel
- F. Policy Review – Surplus policy – see attached. Amanda presented a policy for surplus items. Thad moved to approve the policy and Trevor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. COVID-19 – The office is now in phase 3 of reopening. This doesn't change much from phase 2. Appointments are still required. There hasn't been much talk about a phase 4/back to normal.
- H. 4-Wheeler – Now that we have a policy in place Amanda will have information at the next meeting to advertise the 4-wheeler. A resolution will need to be passed to deem it surplus.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Director Positions – Amanda updated the Board that there were two people who got their paperwork in for the open director positions. Clint Moore will be on the ballot for At Large No. 1 and Nick von Borstel will be on for Zone 3.
- B. Memberships
  - a. OACD Membership – Amanda reported that the OACD membership will be \$1,743.56 this year. Trevor moved to approve paying membership dues and Josh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. NOWC Membership – Emily reported that dues for the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils is \$275. Josh moved to approve the membership dues and Thad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Life flight – Thad had requested that we look into a life flight membership for staff. They are out in remote areas often and it would be a good benefit for them to have. Amanda presented two options. The first was Life Flight at \$69/year/person. This would just cover Life Flight services for the person and their household. The second is from a new provider called MASA (Medical Transport Solutions). This plan covers any ground or air transportation anywhere. The cost is \$160/year/person. Josh

moved to approve purchasing a plan from MASA for all employees. Trevor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**VIII. NRCS REPORT**

DelRae wasn't able to attend but wanted to remind everyone that CSP documentation deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup> and to make an appointment before coming in.

**IX. AGENCY REPORTS**

FSA – No report from FSA

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Timesheets – Timesheets were signed.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 8:00am. Location TBD

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully,

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Thad Eakin, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Directors October 13, 2020:

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Jess Stutzman, Chair