

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ October 29, 2024

Jefferson County SWCD
625 SE Salmon Avenue ~ Suite 6
Redmond, OR 97756
541.699.3170

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2024 12:00 PM

Madras Airport Conference Room ~ Madras, Oregon and
Virtually Via Zoom

Members Present:

Board:

Scott Samsel (At Large 1)
Lloyd Forman (Zone 4)
Craig Weigand, Jr. (Zone 3)
Brad Klann (Zone 2)

Staff:

Kate Haarberg ~ District Manager

Advisors:

NRCS ~ David Phipps, Lars Santana, Chris
North Unit Irrigation District ~ Collin Cowsill

Members/Staff Not Present:

Curt Locke (Zone 5)
Adam Haarberg
Ellen Hammond
Ally Steinmetz
Ryan Brunner

SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

Motion #1: *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the September 24, 2024 board minutes. Seconded by Lloyd Forman. Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion #2: *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve 2024 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion #3: *Motion was made by Brad Klann to reimburse Adam \$2129.54 for lost interest in the Oregon Growth Savings contributions that were not sent in to the plan over the span of 5 years. Seconded by Scott Samsel.*

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Resolution #4: *Motion was made by Craig Weigland to pass a Resolution to Schedule the Annual Meeting on Feb 6th during the annual Jefferson County Farm Fair. Seconded by Scott Samsel. Resolution passed unanimously.*

Call to Order:

The October 29, 2024 Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:05 PM with a quorum in place.

Approval of the September 24, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes:

The September 24, 2024 board minutes were emailed to the board before today's meeting for review.

Motion #1: *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the September 24, 2024 board minutes. Seconded by Lloyd Forman. Motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of the September 2024 Financial Activity Report:

Motion #2: *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve 2024 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

Weed Program Update – Ryan Brunner (via Kate Haarberg)

- This month I have focused mostly on spraying US forest service from Buck Butte, East Japanese Creek, Green Ridge and Geneva. With forest service folks, Crook County Weed master Thomas, ODA guys and the Heart of Oregon Crew. Still doing water quality monitoring.
- I was elected Eastern Oregon Chair for the Oregon Society of Weed science last week.
- We had a really great turnout for our first Ranchland/ weed field day in Ashwood last week and hope to do more soon if there is any input or advice for our next one.
- Meeting with the crooked river HOA board members November 4th to talk about our weed program.
- Working on Yellow flag Iris treatments this fall with Crook and Deschutes County.
- Will focus a lot of time next month on new and existing grants like OWEB, BLM, Forest Service, ODA state weed board, and others. My next weed Committee meeting is December 5th if anyone would like to join.

Watershed Update – Ally Steinmetz (via Kate Haarberg)

- We are awaiting approval for Ellen's pipe conversion small grant. If that is approved we will have \$85,028 left in small grant funding to be allocated by June 2025. 15k max per project.
- MDWC has been busy submitting our OWEB TA application 'Upper Willow Creek Habitat Enhancement' with an ask of ~\$120k. We are hopeful it will get funded to design restoration treatments on Upper Willow Creek.

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- We are planning planting projects for Campbell Creek. Call for volunteers: Help plant 70 trees on the creek November 14th and 15th, let Ally know if you want to come out.
- Opal Springs Tour November 7th 12-2, please RSVP.
- Conducted PSP collection last two weeks.
- Final two fall field trips this week. Photo is from a trip with Metolius Elementary on the Metolius.

Foley Complex Update – Adam Haarberg (via Kate Haarberg)

- We have finished the final construction phase of the Foley Project (Floodplain shaping, channel construction, Large wood Structures) The road will be graded hopefully this week, then we will seed the entire site, and then plant 3700 trees and shrubs utilizing the excavator mounted tree planter. We plan to start this after 1st elk season (next week).
- Following construction, I took some time off for deer season. Once back, I am currently trying to get my new computer up and running with software transfers etc.
- **HB 3421 update** - Nygaard finished their last unit, so we are completely done with that fundingsource for this biennium. Hopefully we will receive more funding next year at a higher level. We are the only district in Eastern Oregon that received this funding that has completed (or started in some cases).
- Today, I am **seeding the fire lines on Stenersen's burn** that occurred in late September. This will finish up the on the groundwork for this OWEB Grant. I will complete the final report as soon as possible to close this grant.
- **Beaver Creek Project (OWEB)** - Norton needs to finish seeding the final unit and submit invoicesand Richardson needs to submit invoices, and we can close this grant out as well.
- Last week, Tom Nelson and I surveyed Auger Creek and upper Opal Creek culvert sites to start design of bottomless culverts, to be implemented next summer.

Conservation Specialist & PSP Outreach – Ellen (via Kate Haarberg)

A. Drought Resiliency

Group- October Quarterly meeting cancelled due to my working on too many other projects

1. Starting to plan winter Soil Health Workshop with Lars; tentative date January 15, 2025
2. Working with Michael Curri on Precision Farming pilot (broadband and remote sensors)
3. RCPP proposal from DRC with NUID, Extension, and SWCD as partners NOT APPROVED.

B. SIA

1. Ryan continues to collect WQ samples due to my injured knee.
2. Roberts: two troughs successfully installed and 128 acres sprayed! Submitting reimbursement paperwork to OWEB.
3. Purchasing appropriate trailcam for the upper Campbell Creek monitoring site

C. Pesticides/Weeds

1. Grants

- a. **PSP**
 1. 100 flyers distributed to NUID, JeffCo,
 2. Summarized monitoring results for MDWC
- b. **EPA Toxics – assist Ryan with**
 1. Ashwood Ranchland meeting: October 24

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- a. Huge success! 19 landowners!
- b. Scooped up the Weed identification books
- c. Lots of interest in receiving more information on weeds and other management topics.
- d. Discussed ODA Weed Grant proposal. They requested:
 - i. Flyer that shows common eastern JeffCo noxious weeds
 - ii. 1-on-1 site visits to discuss weeds and control
 - iii. Generally more outreach
 - iv. Rejuvra cost-share

2. Weed Program

Spending tons of time helping Ryan and Kate figure out the weed program!

D. Other

1. Leroy Buck Small grant for buried mainline submitted to OWEB; waiting on approval
2. Working on Small Grant for Jason Harris to enlarge pond at end of 64 Lateral.
3. Working with JeffCo on accessing current taxlot GIS layers.

District Manager Update – Kate Haarberg

- Attended the OACD Annual Conference in Hood River Oct 14th - 16th. Enjoyed hearing projects that other districts are working on and found the District Manager Round table very valuable.
- Met with Matt Powlison, Ryan and Ellen at the Jefferson County Public works to go over the work that Ryan is doing from several different funding sources. We feel confident that the agreement with Jefferson County public works will continue into the 25/26 year.
- Met with Jeri Garner, the Crook County SWCD Payroll contractor. She helped me get some of the taxes updated in QuickBooks and will assist with a bit of oversight moving forward. I will continue to do the Payroll in house but she will be a great resource for questions and assistance when needed.
- Attended Ryan & Ellen's Field day in Ashwood and toured Adams Foley Creek project site.

NRCS Update ~ Lars Santana

In talks with Ellen about a Soil Health workshop to be held in January, indoors. In addition perhaps a tour in the summer. Topics to cover – soil testing. 2 RCPP Smith Rock were funded. The North Unit did not get funding. Lars showed some graphs for spring water improvements that have been made from the juniper removal projects.

North Unit Irrigation District ~ Collin Cowsill

Collin mentioned that Phase 2 pipeline was almost complete. They are also conducting general maintenance.

BOARD Update ~ All Board members – Nothing to report

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board agreed to meet on Tuesday December 17th at 12:00 pm.
Lloyd adjourned the meeting at 01:28 PM.