

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ July 28th, 2026

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 28th, 2026 - 12:00 pm

Madras Airport Conference Room ~ Madras, Oregon (Virtually Via Zoom)

Board Present:

Lloyd Forman (Zone 4) - Chair
Rob Galyen (At Large 2) (via zoom)
Brad Klann (Zone 2)
Craig Weigand (Zone 3)
Curt Locke

Associate Board/Community:

Scott Samsel

Staff Present:

Kate Haarberg
Ellen Hammond
Ally Steinmetz

Advisors/Partners:

Emma Immoos – NRCS
Collin Cowsill – NUID
Steve Culman – OSU (via zoom)

Call to Order:

July 28th, 2026, Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:09 PM. A quorum in was reached at 12:20 pm.

Succession Planning (Ellen) Conservation Coordinator: (A draft of the job description was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting) Kate has been crunching budget numbers and has identified enough funds to support the position of Conservation Coordinator for at least one year at 80% time. This position will work alongside Ellen through June 2027 as much as possible. We will continue to apply for grants to support this position in following years. Ellen worked on drafting a Job Description for the position as well. The Board supported the decision to post the position and recommended editing down the job description a bit. Board (and associate board) that volunteered to be involved with the interview process: Craig, Brad, Scottie. Kate will ask an NRCS representative as well.

Approval of May 26th, 2026, Board Minutes. Minutes were emailed ahead of the meeting for review.

Motion #1: Motion made by Brad Klann to approve May 26th, 2026, Board Minutes. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

Approval of the July 2026 Financial Activity Report: Kate Haarberg went through the recent checking transactions, balance sheet, as well as the active grants.

Motion #2: Motion made by Brad Klann to approve the July 2026 Financial Activity Report. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

Updated Jefferson County SWCD Employee Handbook: Kate has been working with Craig and Rob to update the employee handbook, which had become outdated. A hard-copy draft was distributed to each board member in attendance. She asked board members to review the handbook before the next board meeting and bring any questions, comments, or suggested revisions for discussion at that time.

Small Grant Check-in w/ Ally: To date for the 25-27 biennium; One SG completed, another one for \$20k submitted last week. \$110,000 remains to be allocated by June 2027. Currently working with a restoration consultant that is designing a project for another small grant at the Roberts but might have to adjust due to the fire. Two other interested applicants have received all the information to apply. Continue to advertise that we have funds available.

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Drought Letter: During the May Board meeting the Board approved the drafting of a letter to the legislature to request funding for irrigators affected by drought. We sent out the letter to the Board in advance of the meeting for review. The Board approved the letter with some requested edits. Ellen will follow up.

We would also like to join with other north central Oregon SWCDs to coordinate a request for emergency wildfire recovery funding and hopefully develop a long-term fire resiliency plan.

Staff Updates:

Ally: Ally reported that she is coordinating OWEB Small Grant development, working on an OWEB report and a Roundhouse Foundation proposal, and preparing for the Middle Jefferson SIA riparian assessment field days. She also provided an update on the recent fires, noting that the previously named Box Springs and Brewer fires are now part of the Rowe Creek Complex, which has affected nearly every drainage in the Upper Willow and Upper Trout Creek watersheds. Additionally, the Bench fire burned large portions of the Campbell Creek drainage. She is coordinating with the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team on the Ochoco National Forest to obtain soil burn severity maps once they become available.

Adam (via report): HB5006 - In July I certified 5 units (3 Landowners) totaling 359.9 acres. To date, we have paid on 916.5 acres and are 46.3% complete overall. Little Trout Phase 2 - We now have all the equipment on site. We have been spending time making fire lines around the project and grubbing all of the juniper and sagebrush prior to grading. The DSL permit finally arrived on Monday so we will now start working below ordinary high-water filling and cutting the channel as well as shaping floodplain.

Ellen: Talking with OWRD about funding for Lat43 projects. Also looking at NRCS RCPP for possible funding. And looking into BOR Watersmart Program to fund staff time for Croplands work.

Kate: Kate has been prepping to start the Audit early this year in hopes to save on charges. Busy closing out FY 25-26, finishing off the employee handbook and submitting quarterly funds requests on 11 grants.

Partner Check-in's

Emma Immoos with NRCS: Emma is standing in for Jen Eatwell as NRCS Acting DC through October. Ended up with just under 4,000,000 for Jefferson County in NRCS contracts. She said if we receive any calls regarding fire emergency funds to send them her way. They are trying to gauge the need to come.

Collin Cowsill with NUID: We are pulling from Wickiup harder than he has ever seen. Looking at potential reduction in allotments. Decisions to be made at their August board meeting. Looking like next year will not be any better. Managing 40 million in grants to try to conserve water wherever they can. Looking at hydro opportunities. Pick up on piping Lat43 this fall. Going after more grant funding.

NEXT BOARD MEETING - set for Tue August 25, 2026, Location at COAREC
Adjourned 1:28 by Lloyd Forman