

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ March 7, 2023

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2023

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

Members Present:

Board:

Scott Samsel (At Large 1)
Brad Klann (Zone 2)
Lloyd Forman (Zone 4)
Rob Galyen (At Large 2)
Curt Locke (Zone 5)
Craig Weigand, Jr. (Zone 3)

Staff:

Staci Merkt
Ellen Hammond

Advisors:

Lars Santana, NRCS
Mark Wunsch, Jefferson County Commissioner

SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

Motion #1: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the January 24, 2023 Board Minutes. Seconded by Scott Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #2: Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the March 7, 2023 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #3: Motion made by Scott Samsel to provide a Letter of Support for Mark Wunsch to submit to the Oregon State Legislature in favor of a new Drought Relief Package being introduced for the upcoming biennium. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion #4: *Motion made by Brad Klann to approve that Rob Galyen perform a detailed review of the District's financial reports monthly. Seconded by Scotty Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.*

Call to Order:

The March 7, 2023 Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:03PM with a quorum in place.

Approval of January 24, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes:

The board reviewed the January 2023 board minutes as presented:

Motion #1: *Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the January 24, 2023 Board Minutes as presented. Seconded by Scott Samsel. The Motion passed unanimously.*

Approval of March 7, 2023 Financial Activity Report:

Staci took the board through the balance sheet, profit and loss statement and active grant balances as of March 7, 2023.

Current active grants are reported on and balanced per grant requirements and all payroll taxes and reports are paid and current.

Motion #2: *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the March 7, 2023 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

JCSWCD Letter of Support to Oregon State Legislature:

Motion #3: *Motion made by Scott Samsel to provide a Letter of Support for Mark Wunsch to submit to the Oregon State Legislature in favor of a new Drought Relief Package being introduced for the upcoming biennium. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

Monthly Review of Detailed Financial Reports by Rob Galyen:

Motion #4: *Motion made by Brad Klann to approve that Rob Galyen perform a detailed review of the District's financial reports monthly. Seconded by Scotty Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.*

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Conservation Specialist Update ~ Ellen

See attached report

Conservation Specialist Update ~ Lisa

See attached report

Trout Creek Project Update ~ Adam

See attached report

MDWC Report ~ Ally

See attached report

Long Range Plan Brainstorming Session ~ Ellen

Ellen is updating our Long Range Plan and asked the board for suggestions to improve and provide more detail for the plan. She also asked for input in creating a vision statement as well as expanding on our goals as a district and how we want to move forward. Finally, she asked the board to elaborate on what they want staff to do to add to the plan.

NRCS Program Budgets ~ Lars

Lars gave details on NRCS program budgets for the current and upcoming program years.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:36PM.



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Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District
March 2023 Board Meeting

Conservation Specialist/CREP Planner Report

Lisa Windom

Middle Deschutes Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program

- Joined OSU Pesticide CEU presentation in Bend to shared data and discuss solutions.
- Developed Strategic Plan, faced final review in February 2023 which defined budget and perform a final sweep of decisions.
- 2023-2025 PSP Grant Applications submitted March 1, 2023, based on Strategic Plan budget and details.

CREP Program

- Conservation Planner Training complete, final project in review/presentation phase
- Multiple new CREP contracts in Crook County has led to positive collaboration between Crook County planner and JSWCD (due to our staff being the only ones with access to NRCS planning platforms)

JSWCD Annual Report

- 2021-2022 Annual Report complete and provided to the board for review, ready to post to website.
- Presentation at Farm Fair successful and well-attended.

NRCS Agency Plains Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS)

- Annual report compiled turbidity data for Campbell Creek, Mud Springs, and Rattlesnake Canyon to determine improvements in water quality due to enhancing, on-farm projects
- Report was presented at the Jefferson County NRCS Working Group Meeting.
- Conclusions show a decrease in turbidity overall, and seasonal trends to where turbid events occur (whether at the rim or the mouth of drainages).

OWEB Small Grant Reporting

- 2-year monitoring report on a riparian restoration project funded through OWEB Small grant and partnered with CREP program showed great success.
- High rates of revegetation, shrub establishment, bank stabilization, and noxious weed control.

Adam → TC Project Update 3/7/23

Little Trout Creek Juniper Removal – Many acres cleared and ahead of schedule.

Beaver Creek Fish Passage – Seeded site, fencing to be completed next week.

Expandable Stinger Planter (Attaches to Excavator) – Greh Fab is working on making us one and should have it later this spring – We are going to plant Beaver Creek this fall.

Stenersen – Gearing up to broadcast seed areas in the coming weeks that were burned last fall.

Beaver Creek Juniper Removal – Gearing up to seed areas cleared in the coming weeks with ODFW Range Drill

Provided Testimony for HB 3142

Currently working on design of Foley Complex (3/4 mile of stream/floodplain construction - Foley, Dutchman, and Big Log Creeks – Road Realignment, Culvert & Ford Removal, and Bridge Repurposing)

With 0.09 inches for the entire Month of February in my Rain Gauge in Willowdale, the creeks are so low that the fish can't even make it anywhere yet again... (this year is shaping up to be drier than 2020)

JCSWCD Board Meeting: March 7, 2023

Ellen Hammond (Conservation Specialist)

A. Drought Resiliency

- Group
 - Next meeting is Monday, March 6
 - Plan in draft form
 - Participation list is almost 40; added more OSU Extension folks, landowners, Energy Trust, OWRD
 - Provided quick overview of process at Farm Fair
 - Mentioned process at Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative meeting
 - Keep JCSWCD website up-to-date with meeting agendas and notes
- Testified for Soil Health Bill

B. SIA Monitoring

- On hold while DEQ approves the Sampling Analysis Plan. How long is it going to take????!!!

C. Nitrates in Groundwater

- Waiting for DEQ to correct sampling location information for old data (months so far)
- Waiting to hear from Scott Lewis about locations for his old data

D. PSP

- Participate in Lisa's meetings
- Provide WQ monitoring information and suggestions

E. NRCS

- Shredded pre-2000 conservation plans through 'S'
- Participated in Jefferson County Local Work Group Meeting
- Made edits to the NRCS Long-Range Plan after discussing Todd Peplin's first draft with him

F. GIS

- Updated drained boundaries for WQ monitoring
- Other assorted work

G. Other

- Working on SWCD 2023-2027 Long Range Business Plan; using draft 2015-2020 as starting point
- Working Vacation: In Arizona week of March 13

To: SWCD Board

From: Ellen Hammond

Re: updates to SWCD Long Range Business Plan

Hi all – the Business Plan is asking for multiple things regarding the purpose and goals of the SWCD. Below are existing text from previous drafts of the Business Plan along with questions and suggestions to discuss. We don't have to 'get it right', just 'good enough'

1. Mission: we have one, but it seems clunky to me. Thoughts?

Current Mission

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District exists to assist local landowners, land managers and the public in the wise development and use of our natural resources.

Improved????

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District assists local land managers and the public with the wise stewardship of our natural resources.

2. Vision: we have none

Potential one is:

Land in Jefferson County is managed to benefit both watershed health and economic viability

3. Goals: these can be written in a thousand different ways

The ones below are modified from the last business plan but capture the concepts. Are these our goals?

1. Improve irrigation efficiency and reduce irrigation runoff
2. Improve streamside conditions
3. Improve soil health
4. Improve rangeland health
5. Improve forest health? Missing, but is this one?

4. What we do: we have these kinds of activities described in different ways. Would be easier to be consistent.

Is this what the Board wants its staff to do?

- Provide technical assistance to land managers to conserve water, reduce erosion, and improve fish and wildlife habitat
- Design projects that meet both landowner and natural resource needs
- Assess land and water conditions to prioritize improvement efforts
- Demonstrate improvements by tracking land and water conditions
- Showcase successful work to garner support for local efforts
- Work with partners to identify and address watershed-wide concerns and opportunities
- Facilitate discussions to resolve natural resource concerns
- Seek funding for technical assistance, project implementation, monitoring, and outreach



MIDDLE DESCHUTES

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Middle Deschutes Watershed Council – Update March 7th, 2023

Council/Admin

- New Board member Mark Wunsch, representing the County!
- Presented at Farm Fair.
- Planning spring trips and tours.

Education

- Submitted grant application to the Reser Family Foundation. Decision in May.
- Spring field trips planned using new locations: House on Metolius and Friday Ranch.
- Warm Springs Afterschool program to take place April & May.
- SB-13 tribal elder committee lessons taking shape. A lesson on eels (lamprey) highlighting importance for Wasco and Warm Springs tribes. 2nd lesson on Northern Paiute traditional foods and how resident lake species differ from anadromous fish.
- Tabling/providing educational activities at two events: *Spring Into Nature Festival* (Led by the Children's Forest @ Sahalee Park, May 6th) & *Festival of the Land* (Led by Cove Palisades State Park @ Crooked River Day Use, June 3rd).

Monitoring/Research

- Presented on Trout Creek Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) at NRCS Local Work Group Meeting in Madras.
- NWQI Trout Creek Watershed Assessment: Gathering data and crafting narrative for Phase 3. Includes gaging stations, surface/ground water quality sampling sites, runoff and streamflow hydrology, precipitation-runoff budgets, water quality conditions, etc.
- Collected Beaver Creek piezometer data in the Trout Creek watershed with Adam Haarberg and Tom Nelson.

Restoration

- Upper Willow Juniper Removal Part I, OWEB Small Grant (complete).
- Robertson Juniper Treatment, ODF Small Forestland Grant (in process).
- Upper Willow Juniper Removal, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR): Notice to Proceed received, work has begun!
- Campbell Creek Watershed Enhancement- Implementation, OWEB: (set for this spring)
- Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation, OWEB: (looking to spring)
- PGE Warm Springs riparian planting: (securing plant contracts)
- Developing Scabby Hollow Small Grant: treat juniper near Mud Springs.