

# Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ August 15, 2023

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

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 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  
Lisa Windom

### Advisors:

Collin Cowsill, NUID

## SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

- Motion #1:** *Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the June 27, 2023 Board Minutes. Seconded by Scott Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.*
- Motion #2:** *Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the August 15, 2023 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*
- Motion #3:** *Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the Program Year 2024 JCSWCD Annual Plan of Work as submitted. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

# Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ August 15, 2023

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## **Call to Order:**

The August 15, 2023 Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:03PM with a quorum in place.

## **Approval of June 27, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes:**

The board reviewed the June 2023 board minutes as presented:

***Motion #1: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the June 27, 2023 Board Minutes as presented. Seconded by Scott Samsel. The Motion passed unanimously.***

## **Approval of the August 15, 2023 Financial Activity Report:**

Staci took the board through the balance sheet, profit and loss statement and active grant balances as of August 15, 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 Rob Galyen to approve the August 15, 2023 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **Review and Approve the Program Year 2024 Annual Plan of Work:**

***Motion #3: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the PY24 Annual Plan of Work as presented. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **Conservation Specialist Update ~ Ellen**

See attached report

## **Conservation Specialist Update ~ Lisa**

See attached report

## **Trout Creek Project Manager Update ~ Adam**

See attached report

## **MDWC Report ~ Ally**

See attached report

Meeting was adjourned at 1:53PM.

## JCSWCD Board Meeting: August 15, 2023

Ellen Hammond (Conservation Specialist)

### A. Drought Resiliency

- Group
  - Next meeting is Tuesday, August 22
  - Plan draft being reviewed
  - Workgroups for Water Availability, Irrigated Croplands, Ranchlands, Agrivoltaics, and non-ag outreach
    - Sept 12 panel discussion in Bend
    - Video interviews and extra footage
    - Discussion on major commodities currently being produced in Jefferson County

### B. SIA

- Continuing with WQ sampling (subbing for Lisa in August)
- Riparian technical assistance
- Why more water running down ditches right now?

### C. GIS

- Lots of work mapping irrigation systems, water quality results, etc.
- New computer making work much faster

### D. OACD

- Required bio and letter to OACD attached for your review



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**Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
August 2023 Board Meeting

Conservation Specialist/CREP Planner Report

Lisa Windom

**Middle Deschutes Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program**

- Strategic Plan in effect as of July 1, 2023
- Spring and summer sampling complete
- Strategic Plan video underdevelopment

**CREP Program**

- Conservation Planner Training complete, Certification in queue
- Multiple new CREP contracts in Crook and Jefferson County has led to positive collaboration between Crook County planner and JSWCD
- Grant application for continued funding of CREP program underway
- Collaboration with Western Beaver Cooperative showing promise in CREP projects.

**NRCS Agency Plains Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS)**

- Water sampling continues for turbidity in Campbell Creek, Mud Springs, Culver Drain, and Rattlesnake Canyon
- Continued collaboration with NRCS with private landowner outreach

**ODA SIA- Water Quality**

- SIA flow monitoring site installed, **coded and operational** down within Campbell Creek
- Successful sampling since March 2023

**ODA Drought Group**

- Provided support to fellow staff through collaborative development of Non-Agricultural Community outreach strategies
- Investigating additional funding, as needed

## **Staff Report – Adam Haarberg (Trout Creek) – August 15, 2023**

### **Foley Complex**

This summer we are working on moving the 44'x16' concrete bridge that failed on Foley Creek in the 1996 Flood. We have been able to separate the 4 deck stringers so that the crane can lift them off of the abutments. We are moving this bridge to a new crossing on Dutchman Creek (approximately ½ mile away) allowing Dutchman Creek to be put back in its historical location and confluence with Big Log Creek. The Crane Company is coming on Friday to move the bridge. We still have to finish the gravel pads for the concrete abutments and place riprap along the face that will be under the bridge deck. We also need to make the finishing touches on Dutchman Creeks new stream location and floodplain contouring prior the bridge installation. Once the bridge is in, we can take out the temporary road and fill in the ditch along the road that Dutchman Creek now occupies. After that, we will prep the rest of the site (Foley Creek and Lower Big Log Creek) for work to be completed next summer. This work will include re-meandering of both creeks, and relocating the road so that it doesn't interfere with either streams. Currently, there are 4 stream fords and a site with 2 culverts, all of which will be eliminated after next summer.

### **Solar Mitigation Property (Donnybrook)**

Staci and I were able to go out the site in July and I believe it is something we can tackle as far as managing the mitigation actions, which are primarily Scotch thistle and Canada thistle control, along with juniper removal. Once the Foley project slows down, I will draft up a plan with costs to submit to Ecoplex, and go from there.

### **Drought Relief Package (Juniper Removal)**

We have a zoom call with Doug Riggs in early September to get more details on how this will all work. But what little I know at this point is that our budget got severely cut (from 1.2 million to \$325K). This doesn't even equal the last OWEB grant I received, so we talking roughly 700 acres, depending on infestation levels and terrain ruggedness. Early in the process, I outlined 3 different priority areas that adjoin recent and current efforts in order to maximize the effective footprint of juniper removal, providing more benefit to each of the 3 tributaries (Little Trout Creek, Calf Gulch, and Beaver Creek). Unfortunately, with such low funding, we more than likely will focus on Calf Gulch for this first time around.

### **Restoration Tour**

In July, a tour of the Trout Creek Watershed with BPA, DRC, NFWF, and Jody Holmes & Jim Nartz, looking at some of our past restoration work, but primarily talking about the potential of water leasing in the Ashwood area. Not sure if much head way was made, but folks seemed impressed with our work. I can pass more information along once it is made available to me.

## Middle Deschutes Watershed Council – Update August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Council/Admin

- Council Capacity 2023-2025: awarded \$166,142, an increase of ~35K!
- Attended PGE Fisheries Workshop.
- *On the docket for fall*: tour with Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Management Camp at HJ Andrews Experimental Forest, Society for Range Management PNW Section tour and meeting in Burns.

### Education

- Received \$5,000 in PGE I&E (Integrated Interpretive and Education Plan) funds.
- Recently awarded \$8,800 as a partner on Gray Family Foundation grant with the Children's Forest of Central Oregon and other key regional partners.
- Continuing lesson development with SB-13 Elder Committee (CTWS).
- Continuing to partner with Camp Chica, and more recently, Vamonos Outside.

### Monitoring/Research

- Conducted post-removal photopoint monitoring of ODF Small Forestland Grant on Axehandle Ridge.
- NWQI Trout Creek Watershed Assessment: gathering and refining data and narrative with Skuyler Herzog; precip-runoff budgets/rain gauge data, researching analysis tools.
- *Planning*: BDA effectiveness monitoring and juniper removal monitoring.

### Restoration

- Robertson Juniper Treatment, ODF Small Forestland Grant (complete).
- Upper Willow Juniper Removal, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR): (on hold until fall).
- Campbell Creek Watershed Enhancement- Implementation, OWEB: (met with Libby Rodgers to look at potential for further work, project implementation complete).
- Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation, OWEB: (Dick Creek work in progress).
- PGE Warm Springs riparian planting: (implementation planned for November 2023).
- Awarded Scabby Hollow Small Grant to treat juniper near Mud Springs headwaters.



Incised section of Dick Creek currently undergoing channel fill and large wood placement, as part of Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehab project with FS partners. Incised channel is being filled with natural materials borrowed from adjacent decommissioned road.