

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ March 24th, 2026

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 24th, 2026 - 12:00 pm

Jefferson Public Health Conference Room ~ Madras, Oregon (Virtually Via Zoom)

Members Present:

Board:

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

Staff Present:

Kate Haarberg
Adam Haarberg
Amber Herman
Ellen Hammond
Ally Steinmetz

Community:

Scott Samsel
Alicia Aguilar

Advisors/Partners:

Con Fed Tribes – David Stuart
Jeffco Weeds – Kelsey Josi
ODA – Nina Caldwell

Call to Order:

March 24th, 2026, Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:05 PM with a quorum in place. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of the February 24th, 2026, Board Minutes. Minutes were emailed ahead of the meeting for review.

Motion #1: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve Feb 24th, 2026, Board minutes. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

Approval of the March 2026 Financial Activity Report: Kate Haarberg went through the recent checking transactions, balance sheet, as well as the active grants. Kate explained when Paid Time Off fund is reconciled.

Motion #2: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the March 2026 Financial Activity Report. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

Changes to the ODA & OWEB Capacity Grants in 2029: Ellen gave updates on the capacity grant that the SWCD's get. This grant uses to be funded from general funds to help ODA implement ag water quality plans. Then the funds from ODA shifted with measure 76. This measure makes it so capacity grants should result in "eligible" projects. This is a worry because this will not allow funds to go to many irrigation upgrades, and other SWCD projects. However, some of our projects are eligible, but not competitive. This is a different concern. Ellen talked with the local OWEB representative and went through this with them. She is going over some of the options that OWEB is considering changing. Right now, districts that have one district per county all get the same amount. However, this could change. OWEB will be having public meetings to get feedback starting this spring. Nina notes we should go to these meetings to hear what the specifics of these changes will be and give feedback to OWEB. These changes will start from 2029-2030. Ellen sent out information about when the listening sections are. There will be one in Redmond, and they have some virtual options. You can also reach out to OWEB specifically. David notes that when he was working for the watershed council having a competitive capacity grant made it hard to work in the areas where the work needed to be done and with the landowners who want to do the work. Nina said all the board members should go to one of these sessions and come to a consensus and submit a comment as an SWCD.

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ March 24th, 2026

SWCD 2026 Elections: Zone 1, Zone 4, Zone 2 and At Large 2 are up for election this year. Kate handed out information to each board member about the zone they represent. The election notice will also go out during the summer of 2026. Alicia lives in Zone 1 and would like to represent it on the Board but does not meet the 'managed acreage' requirement; she would instead like to be appointed as an Associate Board Member. She would not represent the CTWS but represent herself as a steward of the land.

Motion #3: Motion made by Rob Galyen to appoint Alicia Aguilar as an associate Board Member. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

Field Tour Planned: Ally and Adam will be planning a site tour. Date in May TBD. Meeting at the site and will be an all-day event. Lunch will be provided. They will be looking at projects on Foley Creek and Foley Meadow.

Staff Updates:

Ally: Ally has been working on small grant reports. About 8 small grants have been completed recently. The small grant team met last week and will continue to meet over the year. SIA: She is continuing work on the SIA and will hopefully be able to continue forward on this work. The Selective Water Withdrawal tour is on the Calander for Friday April 3, 2026, and RSVP is required.

Ellen: There have been two requests to see if the SWCD can help with the purchase of a precision sprayer. Would the SWCD be able to get funding to help get one? Talk continued about if the SWCD would be able to get one and rent one out. The board says no. Is there grant money out there to help pay for equipment like this including things like annual subscription, etc. Would PSP be able to support this kind of work? Maybe some kind of subsidies? Not sure if we would be able to get it into this PSP but maybe in the future? Nina noted Wasco has used PSP money for spraying with a drone. Rob wants to know if the board can draft a letter to get funds to help growers with incentives using these kinds of spraying. Rob notes that Jefferson County 12 months ago had none of these sprayers and now there are 5. Ellen says that we could present the idea to amend the PSP funds. Annual subscriptions for this technology are about \$10,000 per year. Some of the Board do not think that this is a good use of funds. Money can be used better on things like cover crops or soil health practices. Something that could be beneficial is having an incentive program for acres sprayed with a precision sprayer instead of the traditional way. This would be for areas that are sprayed with chemicals that have been an issue in the PSP.

June 3-4th the ODA board of Ag will be having their meeting here in Madras. On the 3rd there will be a panel, mostly ranchlands people who will be on this. 4th there will be a tour all afternoon talking about the water situation here in North Unit. The Board of Ag does not set policy but can be a big advocate for irrigation upgrades.

Kate: Thank you to Craig and Rob for helping with the handbook. Went to the District Managers meeting last week. CONNECT is next week in Seaside. She has been asked to go to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Adam: No snow up in Trout Creek. Submitted final design for the Little Trout Creek project. All the juniper money has been allocated. ODFW has surveyed Trout Creek, and they have seen about 33 redds so far. Better than it has been. Collin with North Unit is going out to the weather station to help.

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ March 24th, 2026

Amber: Been working with the NRCS to continue assessment and evaluation of contracts for 2026. Deadline for ranking is May 1st. Local Work Group meeting is getting scheduled and once dates are finalized, we will let you know. It is tentative for the first week of May.

Partner Check-in's

Nina: Thanks all for the support from SIA. Have had two successful site visits and they have been very willing and open to working with us.

NEXT BOARD MEETING - set for Tue Apr 28, 2026, 12pm at Madras Airport.
Adjourned 1:15 by Lloyd Forman