

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ January 28, 2025

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 28th, 2025 12:00 PM

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

Members Present:

Board:

Scott Samsel (At Large 1) – Exiting At Large 1
Gary Richards (At Large 1) – New Board Member Jan 2025
Lloyd Forman (Zone 4)
Brad Klann (Zone 2)
Rob Gaylan (At Large 2)

Staff:

Kate Haarberg ~ District Manager
Adam Haarberg
Ellen Hammond
Ally Steinmetz
Ryan Brunner
Amber Herman

Advisors:

NRCS ~ Lars Santana
North Unit Irrigation District ~ Collin Cowsill

SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

Motion #1: *Motion made by Brad Klann to approve the December 27th, 2024 board minutes as with names amended. Seconded by Rob Galyen. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.*

Motion #2: *Motion made by Gary Richards to approve Jan 2025 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Klann. Motion carried unanimously. No Nays.*

Call to Order:

The January 28th, 2025 Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:00 PM. There was not a Quorum in place at 12:00 so we moved up the “Staff Check ins”

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Ally Steinmetz – Busy planning spring field trips. Working on update for Farm Fair annual meeting. Updating Trout Creek CIS monitoring report which will be presented at NRCS local work group meeting. A Small Grant juniper cut is finished and will head out to inspect and sign off on that. Look at other small grant opportunity. OWEB TA Grant was recommended for funding, but it looks like it may not get funded until next cycle.

Staff Check ins:

Adam Haarberg - Since the last meeting, we have wrapped up 2 OWEB grants (Stenersen and Beaver Creek), submitting final completion reports and final invoices. Developed and submitted Scope of Work and Budget for review (BPA 2 Year Contract). The final unit was completed on Little Trout Juniper Removal OWEB grant, all that is left is controlled burns and fire line seeding. Made it out to Foley Creek on Christmas Eve after the first big storm and project looked great with water finally flowing (See Drone Pics). Downloaded Piezometers and made charts of the data (See attached for Little Trout Creek days of surface flow). Gearing up to finalize design on 2 bottomless culverts (Auger and Opal Creeks) so we can construct them this summer and start designing Little Trout Creek Phase 2 for implementation in 2026. Working to secure \$500,000 in new house bill for juniper removal. Working with Amber to utilize USDA funding to install 2 water level sensors (Trout Creek and Antelope Creek) that will hook up to my weather station for Realtime data retrieval. Finally, there was very good flow in all the creeks, allowing several steelhead to make it past the PIT tag array in Willowdale.

Oath of Office

Swearing in of new board member Gary Richards. Gary was sworn in by Board Chair Lloyd Forman and took/signed the Oath of Office.

Returning elected board members: Craig Weigand Jr and Curtis Locke were not present and unable to be sworn in.

With Gary Richards now sworn in we had the Quorum in place to continue with the agenda that contained motions.

Approval of the December 17, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes:

The December 17, 2024 board minutes were emailed to the board before today's meeting for review. Rob Galyen pointed out spelling errors on his last name and Gary Richards.

Motion #1: Motion made by Brad Klann to approve the December 27th, 2024 board minutes as with names amended. Seconded by Rob Galyen. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

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Approval of the January 2025 Financial Activity Report: Kate Haarberg reviewed the status of all the active grants. She went through the Profit & Loss and the Balance Sheet. These documents were also emailed in advance to the Board for review.

Motion #2: Motion made by Gary Richards to approve Jan 2025 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Klann. Motion carried unanimously. No Nays.

Staff Check ins:

Ryan Brunner - We have been primarily focused on writing the State Weed Board grant application, requesting \$40,000. If received, these funds would support herbicide cost-sharing, application time, outreach materials, and educational initiatives for rangeland landowners in Eastern Jefferson County. We expect to hear back about the grant by February 24th.

Additionally, we invested significant effort into a BLM grant application for 2025, seeking \$40,000 for treatments on public land. Unfortunately, we received notification last Friday that the funding source for this grant has been canceled. While the Botanist is hopeful that the funding may become available again, there is no definite time frame at this point.

U.S Forest Service Agreements are on track and planning is in the works for 2025 in Collaboration with CRWMA. Additional funds have been added for annual grass control in the fall with Rejuvra.

I took a certification course this month on ProcellaCOR in collaboration with the Confederated tribes focusing on Eurasian Watermilfoil in Lake Billy Chinook. We have a large working group that has a large interest and concern as it is a Jefferson County Class A noxious weed, very difficult to control, and a lot of working partners. I have a lot of hope for our efforts and this product as its extremely safe for humans and fish!

With current weather conditions, we will begin County ROW treatments very soon. Tristen Cruden will eventually be the new weed technician for the county and has passed his Laws and Safety exam. Mike and I will help get him going this spring and hopefully he will have time and learn to help with the landowner notice process and other Weed related projects.

More on Ryan's update to the board can be found in the recording of the meeting. Please ask Kate for a copy of that.

Amber Herman

I have been continuing my training and working to complete my planning certification for the NRCS. A focus at this time of the year for the NRCS is working on the ranking projects to determine what will be funded. To complete this process more data often needs to be collected, so I have been attending field visits that include surveys, forestry inventories, landowner meetings, etc. Additionally, I have been organizing CREP files and connecting with the producers that have active CREP contracts. Setting up site visits with these landowners to

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see the projects areas. Adam has been a tremendous help with the producers that are enrolled along trout creek.

Ellen Hammond – Ellen has been working on the Annual Report and preparing COCC lecture series that are coming up. Ellen has also been preparing for the Soil Health Workshop coming up on March 11th working alongside Lars on this event. Goal of the 2 & ½ hour workshop is to keep movement going with local farmers and soil health. Finalizing the 2024 update to the Drought Plan. Preparing for pesticide sampling for the upcoming year. Ellen has also been spearheading the Jeff Co SWCD ADA compliance requirements and has written a small grant to help support these efforts. Ellen has partnered with Jeff County for GIS access. Ellen has drafted a 'MOU' with Wasco County.

Grant Funding freeze by the Federal Government – Kate mentioned that this morning there was an Executive order issued to put a temporary freeze on federal grants. We don't know much more than that but we will continue to monitor the situation and keep the board informed. Lars (with NRCS) didn't have any additional information on this as well.

NRCS Check-in with Lars Santana – Local work group meeting coming up on February 12th at Chambers at City Hall from 9-11. Looking for feedback from stakeholders in the county. Where we should be focusing. Still sorting out the Executive orders with leadership, including a hiring freeze. Discussions w/ Deschutes SWCD who have a grant with NFWF that will potentially do projects in Jefferson County.

Lloyd mentioned that there is a "Directors Training" being held at the USDA office tomorrow from 10-2:30 and Kate confirmed that both she and Gary Richards were planning on attending.

North Unit Irrigation Check-in with Collin Cowsill – Piping 43 is going well. Water update will be presented at Farm Fair right before the Jeff Co SWCD annual report. Collin spoke about water surplus that will be stored at Hay Stack and they are working through the process to use the online portal to ask for that additional water so that no water is lost.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Next two board meetings were set for Tuesday February 25th and Tuesday, March 25th