

# Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ December 9th, 2025

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 9th, 2025 12:00 pm

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

### Members Present:

#### Board:

Lloyd Forman (Zone 4) - Chair  
Rob Galyen (At Large 2)  
Curt Locke (Zone 5)  
Brad Klann (Zone 2)  
Craig Weigand (Zone 3)  
Gary Richards (At Large 1)

#### Community:

Scott Samsel

### Staff Present:

Kate Haarberg  
Ellen Hammond  
Ally Steinmetz  
Adam Haarberg  
Amber Herman

### Advisors:

NRCS – Jennifer Eatwell  
North Unit - Collin Cowsill  
Confederated Tribes – David Stuart  
Jeffco Weeds – Kelsey Josi  
Desch SWCD – Keli Moriarty

### Call to Order:

December 9th, 2025, Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:05 PM with a quorum in place.

**Approval of the Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 Board Minutes.** Minutes were emailed ahead of the meeting for review.

**Motion #1: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve Oct 28th, 2025, Board minutes. Seconded by Gary Richards. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.**

**Approval of the December 2025 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 Dec 2025 Financial Activity Report. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.**

**Year-End Staff Bonus:** Year-end bonuses were proposed. \$500 for 1-3 years of service, \$750 for 3-7 years of service and \$1000 for 7+ years of service. This would total \$3500 to be paid out of General Indirect funds.

**Motion #3: Motion was made by Brad Klann to approve yearend bonus. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion passed unanimously with no Nays.**

**FY 24-25 Audit Review:** The JCSWCD auditor, Rich Winkel, remotely joined the meeting to review the FY 24-25 Audit. He went through the financials and explained any large increases or decreases from prior year are explained with the grant fluctuations and employee FTE changes.

**Motion #4: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve FY 24-25 Audit. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.**

### Staff Updates:

**Adam Haarberg – Foley Meadow SG:** Removed Junipers, planted 2000 trees, fenced 18 cottonwood & aspen clumps to protect against elk. **Little Trout Juniper Removal Grant:** Seeded 10 miles of fire line and working on the completion report. **Axehandle Ridge SG:** Finishing the seeding next week w/ Lon. **Little Trout Creek Phase 2 (pending OWEB grant):** BPA Archaeologist went out last week to survey the site. **Water Monitoring Site Head Water:** we are seeing the earliest flowing water in 6 years.

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**HB Juniper Removal:** Have mapped the biggest site of approx. 500 acres and plan on mapping out the rest of Tier one projects by early January. **Weather Station:** we are replacing the weather station that burned in the Cram Fire.

**Ellen's Updates:** 1. All fire line seed has been dispersed to landowners, except that one landowner will pick them up. The SWCD seeder has been used by two landowners, with challenges. Ellen is picking it up from one landowner and bringing it to the last landowner who wants to borrow it. 2. The new SIA Open House is on January 6. 3. The John Day group is planning to submit an application for a watershed assessment for Cherry Creek; the applicant will be the Mid-John Day Watershed Council. 4. There is a huge effort amongst multiple agencies and non-profits to seek funding to adapt the Threat-based Assessment for Invasive Annual Grasses for northcentral Oregon. The methodology was developed at the Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center and has been used mostly in the sage grouse biome. The SWCD has asked that the Cram Fire footprint and the John Day portion of Jefferson County be included.

**Amber:** Over the government shutdown I worked with the SWCD staff doing site visits, field work and grant writing. I went out in the field with Adam doing some juniper removal and planting for several days. Also, I worked a lot with Kate putting together a NACD TA grant that will hopefully fund about half my time after not getting the CREP grant this last fall. After the shutdown I have been working with Jenn and Keli to get site visits done and payments made for a lot of NRCS contracts. Busy time of year with application deadline for EQIP and CSP coming up. The deadline has been moved to January 15th for both CSP and EQIP due to the shutdown. Jenn is going to cover programs changes in her update.

**MDWC Check-in Ally:** Ally highlighted the Upper Willow Creek Riparian Planting Small Grant of \$6,598. This will restore riparian vegetation along 1.5 miles of Willow Creek by planting willow, cottonwood, and aspen to support future beaver activity and raise water table. Pictures of the volunteer work crew & project were shown. The impact of livestock grazing on the project was discussed.

**Kate Haarberg:** Kate informed the Board that the employee that quit in June, Ryan Brunner, filed an appeal against his denied unemployment claim. There was a court hearing yesterday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, in which Kate Haarberg and Rob Galyen were both present by phone. The financial impact to the District is approximately \$14,000 if he wins the appeal. We should know the verdict in the next few weeks.

**NRCS Check-in with Jenn Eatwell** - Changes are coming down the pipeline from the NRCS. Oregon is one of the only states in the county that operate under the use of Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS). Each county has multiple CIS's and each of those CIS's are individual funding pools and Oregon has around 150 funding pools they are trying to manage. With the new change in leadership both on the state level and the national level the CISs will no longer be part of the way NRCS Oregon operates. The funding pools are no longer going to be county wide they are shifting to be basin or statewide funding pools. So, everyone who signs up for irrigation or range across the nine counties will be ranked against each other. We still do not have any policy guidance about these changes but as soon as we know we will get that information out to everyone. NRCS emergency act now funding is not available any longer for this year for fire recovery. What we are going to try and do is include the footprint of the Cram fire in the normal EQIP sign up. There is going to be a lot of changes in both EQIP and CSP. We know that Oregon has about 55 million in funding but that has not been spread across the basins yet, so we do not know our funding allocation for this area.

**NUID Check-in with Collin Cowsill** – Finishing up on pipeline on 6442, crew moved onto lining project. Attended an OWRC conference in Hood River which was great. Pursuing some small-scale hydro energy

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opportunities. Beginning the Bend Headworks primary diversion in Bend, starting in January it's a two-year project. Collin is taking over the Pesticide Program for NUID.

**Kelsey Josi, Jeff Co Public Works Weed Coordinator** - Kelsey is new to the County as of Oct 2025. She is from John Day, and graduated from OSU. Volunteered on the Deschutes County Weed Board for seven years. Kelsey is working on an OWEB Grant in the John Day drainage.

**David Stuart** - David Stuart is the new Deschutes Basin Watershed Coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. He is working on a grant to BPA to support work by non-profits, mostly water quality monitoring, in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING** – Next board meetings is set for Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm at the Madras Airport. **Meeting Adjourned by Lloyd at 01:40 pm**