

# Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ October 24, 2023

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

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 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)  
Curt Locke (Zone 5)  
Craig Weigand, Jr. (Zone 3)

### Staff:

Staci Merkt  
Ellen Hammond  
Adam Haarberg

### Advisors:

Collin Cowsill, NUID  
Ally Steinmetz, MDWC  
Lars Santana, NRCS

## SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

**Motion #1:** *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the August 15, 2023 Board Minutes. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Motion #2:** *Motion made by Brad Klann to approve the October 24, 2023 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Motion #3:** *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the OACD Board Ballot for the 2023 Elections as submitted by consensus of the JCSWCD Board of Directors. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

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**Motion #4:** *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the JCSWCD 2024-2028 Long Range Plan to include some modifications and input from NRCS. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Motion #5:** *Motion made by Craig Weigand to approve to move the eastern border of the Zone 2 boundary of the JCSWCD Board of Directors mapped zones 1.5 miles to the west to follow the quarter section line and to move the southern border of the Zone 2 boundary of the JCSWCD Board of Directors mapped zones 1 mile north to follow the section line. Seconded by Scott Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **Call to Order:**

The October 24, 2023 Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:11PM with a quorum in place.

## **Approval of August 15, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes:**

The board reviewed the August 2023 board minutes as presented:

**Motion #1:** *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the August 15, 2023 Board Minutes as presented. Seconded by Brad Klann. The Motion passed unanimously.*

## **Approval of the October 24, 2023 Financial Activity Report:**

Staci took the board through the balance sheet, profit and loss statement and active grant balances as of October 24, 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 Brad Klann to approve the October 24, 2023 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **OACD Board Ballot for 2023 Elections:**

**Motion #3:** *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the OACD Board Ballot for the 2023 Elections as submitted by consensus of the JCSWCD Board of Directors. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

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## Review and Approve the JCSWCD 2024-2028 Long Range Plan:

**Motion #4:** *Motion made by Scott Samsel to approve the JCSWCD 2024-2028 Long Range Plan to include some modifications and input from NRCS. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously.*

## Review and Approve the JCSWCD Board of Directors Zone 2 Boundary Modifications:

**Motion #5:** *Motion made by Craig Weigand to approve to move the eastern border of the Zone 2 boundary of the JCSWCD Board of Directors mapped zones 1.5 miles to the west to follow the quarter section line and to move the southern border of the Zone 2 boundary of the JCSWCD Board of Directors mapped zones 1 mile north to follow the section line. Seconded by Scott Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.*

## New Criteria for Board Member Eligibility ~ Staci and Ellen

Ellen explained that she learned at the OACD conference that board members now have to reside in the zone that they are representing. Staci added that the directors that don't reside in the zone that they are representing are no longer eligible to be SWCD board members effective on January 1, 2024. A letter stating the above from ODA was included in the board packets.

## OACD Conference Takeaways ~ Ellen

Ellen gave an overview of the conference and variety of subject material. She said that she was able to network and learned a lot!

## HB 2010 Western Juniper Removal Update ~ Adam and Staci

Staci informed the board that JCSWCD received the funding (\$325,000) to remove juniper in the Trout Creek Watershed and Adam added that the maps of areas being treated are completed and landowner agreements for the participants are currently being signed and returned. Adam added that work will begin soon.

## Changes in Staff Responsibilities/Roles with Lisa's Departure:

Staci said she would be responsible for the field work (as well as administrative) for the Small Grant Program and that Bodie Brown, CRWC, would be assisting with the CREP field work and she (Staci) would take on the reporting component. Ellen added that she would be taking over responsibility for the PSP grant.

## Changes to Job Description/Duties for Lisa's Replacement ~ Staci

Staci explained that there is a potential opportunity to work with Jefferson County and for the County Weed Specialist to become a JCSWCD employee. She said that we would work closely with the Public Works Department and the Jefferson County Administrator to figure out the details. She asked the Board if this is something they are interested in pursuing and the Board

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agreed that we should continue working through details and when we have more information, the Board can review it and decide if this is something JCSWCD is interested in pursuing.

## **Conservation Specialist Update ~ Ellen**

Ellen reported her updates throughout the meeting as shown on the agenda.

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

Adam said he's been working on the Foley Creek project – they just finished moving the bridge and next year they will be moving the road. He said they hope to move the culverts soon. He also mentioned that the stinger (that was built for his Trout Creek projects for tree planting) is working and will be used this fall for planting trees and shrubs for his Beaver Creek project. He again mentioned that he has been working on coordinating the HB 2010 Juniper Removal projects. Lastly, he said that he continues to work with Ecoplexis on the mitigation project.

## **MDWC Report ~ Ally**

Ally said that all is well and she just finished wrapping up the fall sampling for the PSP. She stated that she's helping Ellen with the ranch/rangelands committee of the Drought Resiliency Group. She also completed Phase 1 and 2 of the Trout Creek Watershed Assessment and will be receiving reimbursement for those phases soon, she said. She added that she has been leading fall field trips for Jefferson County students in coordination with Trout Unlimited. She also has been working on 3 new small grant applications for juniper removal projects: 2 in the Willow Creek Watershed and 1 in the Hay Creek Watershed. She also mentioned that she's currently monitoring the Campbell Creek BDAs and has scheduled the Warm Springs riparian planting for November 15 and 16.

## **NRCS Update ~ Lars**

Lars said that Jen Eatwell has accepted a new position and has basin-wide duties now, so it is just he and Dave handling Jefferson and Deschutes Counties until NRCS hires Jen's replacement which could take up to a year. He stated that fiscal year 2024 began October 1 and NRCS has been collecting applications. He said that there is lots of interest in soil health and juniper removal projects. He mentioned that Lisa and Ally's cubicles are now being used by NRCS and that JCSWCD only has 2 cubicles remaining in the USDA Service Center. He suggested that this could be a challenge with a new hire.

## **NUID Update ~ Collin**

Collin said that NUID is piping some new laterals. He also mentioned that the water availability committee of the Drought Resiliency Group met at the NUID office with Ellen. He added that he is helping with the monitoring component of JCSWCD projects and programs. Lastly he said that NUID is currently replacing old gates.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.