

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ July 24, 2024

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 24, 2024 6:00 PM

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

Members Present:

Board:

Scott Samsel (At Large 1)
Rob Galyen (At Large 2)
Brad Klann (Zone 2)
Lloyd Forman (Zone 4)
Curt Locke (Zone 5)
Craig Weigand, Jr. (Zone 3)

Staff:

Kate Haarberg
Ellen Hammond
Adam Haarberg
Ally Steinmetz
Ryan Brummer (via Zoom)

Advisors:

Lars Santana, NRCS (via Zoom)

SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

Motion #1: Motion made by Lloyd Forman to approve the July 24, 2024 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Scott Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #2: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve change in supervisor of Adam Haarberg to be supervised by Zone 4 Lloyd Forman. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously.

Call to Order:

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ July 24, 2024

The July 24, 2024 Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 6:00 PM with a quorum in place.

Approval of the April 2024 Board Meeting Minutes:

No minutes were located on Staci's old computer from the April Board meeting. She didn't recall putting them together either. Scott mentioned the 2 special meetings that happened since April and said he could produce minutes from those meetings to be approved at the next Board meeting.

Approval of the July, 2024 Financial Activity Report:

Kate felt she was too new to go through the balance sheet, profit and loss statement and active grant balances as of July, 2024. Rob pointed out concerns with the Medical Insurance total which Kate was able to explain in detail. No further questions arose.

Motion #1: Motion made by Lloyd Forman to approve the July 24, 2024 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Scott Samsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Welcome new District Manager ~ Kate

Kate gave a brief introduction. She began on July 7th and has been working with Staci and Debbe to receive training. She expressed the challenges with both the previous DM's working full time jobs elsewhere. The board was supportive in giving Kate whatever resources she needs to continue training with the remote former employee's.

Update on PSP Outreach & Conservation Specialist Update ~ Ellen

Ellen reported her updates throughout the meeting as shown on the agenda. Scott Samsel suggested a newspaper ad or some additional community education/outreach should be put out in the Madras Pioneer regarding Scotch Thistle. Perhaps a sign at the boat ramp as well.

Ellen has been asked to apply to be on the Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee for the Oregon Climate Commission, and everyone was supportive if she decides to participate. The Board encouraged Ellen to work with Deschutes SWCD on their NFWF technical assistance proposal that would include funding for Jefferson SWCD staff; Ellen asked if Lars was available in the next few weeks to discuss various NRCS funds and he said 'yes'.

Ellen asked the Board if anybody was interested in being a pilot for using environmental sensors with computer technology. The Board asked for more information at a future meeting.

Weed Coordinator Update ~ Ryan

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ July 24, 2024

Ryan said he is very busy spraying weeds. Ryan is developing a partnerships with SWCDs in surrounding counties. He is also interested in participating in a Title II funded project with the USFS.

Trout Creek Project Manager Update ~ Adam

Adam said the weeds are much better from last year and the juniper removals are almost complete. They should be 100% complete by December. He said they are on phase 2 of Foley Creek. He talked about the culver & road restructuring and a slight delay caused by the excavator breaking down.

Safety Meeting ~ Adam

Adam said that a safety plan is being developed per the recommendation of the presenter at the April meeting. Kate will follow up on this by asking other SWCD's what their plans are.

MDWC Report ~ Ally

Ally gave a report of her updates documented by a separate supporting attachment provided at the meeting.

ODA Conflict of Interest ~ Kate

Kate spoke with Eric Nusbaum with ODA and he pointed out that married employees are not allowed to supervisor one another. Herecommended that Adam be supervised by a board member.

Motion #2: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve change in supervisor of Adam Haarberg to be supervised by Zone 4 Lloyd Forman. Seconded by Craig Weigand. Motion carried unanimously.

NRCS Update ~ Lars

Lars said that NRCS has 4 employees now and he has been working with an intern whose time is winding down in the next month.

BOARD Update ~ All Board members

3 positions are up for re-election, in addition to the one for the CTWS. Notice of Election Ad was recently run in the Madras Pioneer and posted to website and will be included in the monthly newsletter. Craig and Curt have decided to run again for their Zones, but Scott has decided not to run. We gave Craig and Curt the necessary forms to be completed. We discussed if anyone had good recommendations to fill Scott Samsel's seat. Kate will send out the application packet to all the staff & board members to get the word out about the open positions.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board agreed to meet on Tuesday, August 27th at 11 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.