

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ January 27th, 2026

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27th, 2026 - 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)
Brad Klann (Zone 2)
Gary Richards (At Large 1) remote

Board Not Present:

Curt Locke (Zone 5)
Craig Weigand (Zone 3)

Staff Present:

Kate Haarberg
Ally Steinmetz (remote)
Adam Haarberg
Amber Herman

Advisors:

North Unit - Collin Cowsill
Jeffco Weeds – Kelsey Josi
Desch SWCD – Keli Moriarty
COARC – Steve Culman

Call to Order:

January 27th, 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 Dec 9th, 2025, Board Minutes. Minutes were emailed ahead of the meeting for review.

Motion #1: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve Dec 9th, 2025, Board minutes. Seconded by Brad Klann. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

Approval of the January 2026 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 Jan 2026 Financial Activity Report. Seconded by Rob Gaylen. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

FY 24/25 Annual Report: The Annual Report was mailed to the Board ahead of the meeting. The report was prepared by Ellen with input from the rest of the staff. This report is prepared ahead of our Annual Meeting taking place on February 5th, 2026, at the Farm Fair. We went through the document highlighting projects taking place in FY 24/25. The report will also be available to the public from our website.

COARC Check-in – Steve Culman, Director of the Central Oregon Experiment Station was present to provide our Board with an overview of what's happening at the Experiment Station. Hired Floyd Nicolas as an Ag Water Specialist. There are two new Faculty Research Assistants for master level positions. One focused on outreach and the other on research on implementation and technology. They also hired a new technician. Steve is currently working on setting up a lab to run soil health analysis. They are putting in a variable rate on the main linear on the farm which will allow them to have more automated controls. They have a couple of new drones as well. Finally, they are making more efforts to bring more people to the station starting with the Cropping in times of uncertainty that is coming up in February.

Staff Updates:

Adam Haarberg: **Little Trout Creek Phase II:** Grant will be decided tomorrow. Some slight redesign will happen upon award of the grant due to Cultural Resources findings. **HB Juniper Removal:** We have 10 applications moving forward. 5 Tier one and 5 Tier two. We met with everyone in Tier one. We have

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allocated 1400 to date and the hope is hitting 2000 acres. **New Weather Station (IRA):** installation has still been challenging, but Collin has volunteered to assist.

Ellen (via kate) –

1. Lat43 - COAREC is contacting landowners about irrigation efficiency and cover cropping, starting with Vanek.
2. I am meeting with Kevin Richards on Thursday to edit the OAHF Conservation Plan.
3. Hopefully Mid John Day WC will submit grant for stream assessment on Enchanted Rocks property by end of week. I expect to talk with Alex Varner this afternoon to confirm.
4. Meetings have been set up for Drought Working Groups and SIA Monitoring. I am finalizing the 2025 Annual Drought Report Update.

Amber: Amber has participated with Ellen in Lat 42 site visit to speak to any NRCS questions. Applications for NRCS 2026 programs closed on Jan 15th, with funding \$ announced in the next few weeks. They have about 70 applications to review in the next few months.

MDWC Check-in Ally: Recently wrapped up work with the youth crew. In December the MDWC hosted DEQ who gave updates on water quality on the lower Deschutes. This was a well-attended meeting and would like to hold it annually. Finished the MDWC Annual Report and presented it to the Jefferson County Commissioners' meeting. The Middle Jefferson SIA kicked off and the MDWC will be an active partner in that. MDWC will focus on Upper Willow Creek and Mud Springs area of the SIA. Lastly, Ally is working on submitting two grant applications due at the beginning of February.

NUID - Collin Cowsill: The recent water conditions report from Oregon Water Resources, everything is drifting far outside the historic averages. Gearing up for a tight water year. Carryover in Wickiup is good but need snowpack for later spring/summer. They are starting their fish screen renovation at our diversion in Bend. Doing a lining on the main canal by Juniper Butte. Cleaning of Ramsey Pond, which is part of the JCSWCD PSP Grant. The Water Bank Pilot that DRC conceptualized is now written into legislation. Collin has also been attending the REAL Oregon Program and have found a lot of value in it and wanted to mention it in case anyone is interested.

Public Works Weed Coordinator – Kelsey Josi: Submitted an OWEB grant and waiting to hear on that. Primary focus right now is lower Cherry Creek and working directly with landowners specifically with Scotch Thistle issues.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Next board meetings is set for Tuesday, February 24th at 12:00 pm.
Meeting Adjourned by Lloyd Forman at 01:05 pm