



SWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 12th, 2024

Board Members Present: Gary Bedortha, Zach Flegel, and Jason Dennis

SWCD Staff Present: Andy Gallagher, Melissa Stanek and Abby Papke

Additional Attendees: Kody Johannsen, Chris Mundy, and Tim Deboodt

The following documents presented and attached:

- June Minutes
- Treasurers' Report
- Project and Activity Update

9:20 a.m. meeting called to order by Zach Flegel.

Confirmation of Minutes: June 2024

Gary motioned to accept minutes, Jason Dennis 2nd the motion, minutes passed.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Gallagher and Melissa Stanek

- You'll notice more spending because our invoices are being paid regularly
- We have a \$14,000 check that is being sent out, we are getting ready to submit the RFF and that money will go right back in the bank.
- We purchased a pickup.
- We have \$50K in invoices for Maury, we are waiting for funds before we pay those.
- We haven't moved any of the interest from LGIP to unrestricted yet, Andy is going to read the grant again and make sure that aren't any restrictions around the amount of interest we can earn, if there is we will spend it on the project.

Jason Dennis motion to accept the Treasurers' Report, Gary Bedortha 2nd, report passed.

Project and Activity Update: Andy Gallagher

- In depth report on current and upcoming projects.
 - Andy gave this presentation to County Commissioners last week.
 - Let us know if you have anyone that has a small grant, we have some money remaining and don't have anyone lined up for this.
 - Abby will be ½ time on NRCS and ½ Sage Grouse
 - Tim suggested the County Taylor Grazing Fund, might prioritize that fund for some of the fire recovery/reseeding, there is approx. \$40K available.

SWCD Business:



- Revised Mission Statement –
 - “The mission of the Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide technical and financial assistance to land managers, promoting sustainability of agricultural lands and conservation of natural resources for generations to come.”
 - Gary Bedortha motioned to approve the new Mission Statement, Jason Dennis 2nd, new statement passed.
 - Zach would like to look at this again next meeting, possibly change to agricultural to working lands.
- We will look at schedule Tour next year in the Spring,
 - We will not schedule on a Wednesday next time and check with OWEB for conflicting meetings.
- Watershed is also waiting until next year to schedule their tour.
- Watershed council spot for SWCD, we need to figure out who we want to attend these meetings, could be board member, think about it and bring it back to the next meeting.

Board Members and Partners' Reports:

Kody:

- Fuels reduction Juniper Canyon, Powell Butte and McKay, waiting to finalize, nothing will happen until Oct.
- Working with NRCS putting projects on the ground.

Chris:

- There are 2 million dollars available in 2024 fiscal year for fire rehab for all of eastern Oregon, Durkee, Camp Creek and Crazy Creek are on the list.
 - Spraying, seeding and deferred grazing in 2024, there will be a lot of money in 2025.
- \$650K in sage grouse, juniper and annual grass treatment.
- 2 forestry funding pools were rolled into IRA 1.6 million in IRA forestry contracts, \$600K in juniper.
- Powell Butte irrigation funded 3 contracts around \$600K.
- The RCPP ends at the end of this month.
 - Next year a lot of that construction should be going on.

Tim:

- The county participated in the objection hearing for the mill creek plan late June; the July interim decision is to modify decision notice based on objections of environmental members.



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- County provided comment on BLM camp creek grazing allotment, covered 7 allotments, 3 permittees, they are renewing 5, proposed to rest pasture S fork Crooked River pasture for 10 years, they've already been resting for 3 years, will review in 5 years.
 - They don't analyze the wild horse grazing, there are approximately 200
 - Wild horses are federally protected
- High Desert partnership, collaborative group in Harney County, coming to crook county to talk about their collaborative model and offer help if crook county wants it, this is on August 23rd from 10-11:30.
- States fire hazard map is out for public comment, please look at the newest version, there are 3 categories instead of 5.
 - There is no way for a landowner to appeal.
- The fair was a success, \$1.4 million on 332 animals at the auction this year.

Meeting adjourned by Zack Flegel at 10:42 a.m.

Next Monthly Meeting: September 9th at 9 a.m.

Recommendation to skip Oct, November falls on a holiday, think about moving the meeting to a different day of the week.

December would be our annual meeting if we have our financial reports back.