Amended:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recorder:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Morrow SWCD

Morrow County Weed Advisory Board

430 W Linden Way

PO Box 127

Heppner OR 97386

Phone: 541-676-5452

**www.morrowswcd.org**

2/8/2023 MINUTES

Board of Directors Staff & guests

Miff Devin – Chair, Zone 1 Kevin Payne - District Manager

Jim McElligott – Vice Chair, At-large #2 Adam Doherty - FSA

Brian Doherty – Treasurer, Zone 3 Trent Gianella – CREP Tech

Duane Neiffer – At Large #1 Jared Huddleston – Nat Res Project Manager

Colin McElligott – Zone 2 Janet Greenup – Admin Specialist

Jennifer Wilson – NRCS

Larry Lutcher – OSU Extension

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Miff Devin.

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved by the board.

**STAFF REPORTS/FINANCIAL REPORTS**: Written staff reports were included in board packets along with the financial reports and were reviewed by the board.

**PARTNER REPORTS**: Larry Lutcher gave an update on moisture levels throughout the county, and also informed us that OSU extension potentially wants him to cover two counties which would be Morrow and Gilliam counties.

Adam Doherty gave an update on some new FSA programs which include a crop revenue program. His staff are planning to travel to Bend to learn about some of the new programs in more detail.

Jennifer Wilson gave an update for NRCS. They recently finished ranking 60 EQIP applications. They are still accepting CSP applications until March or April. The Local Work Group Meeting will be held on February 22nd at the Ag Service Center Building in Heppner at 10am. She also mentioned the implications of the new Inflation Reduction Act that will bring more money to NRCS programs.

**DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE**: Kevin spoke with Michael Ward with the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council about expanding the council’s coverage area. Michael has been in contact with OWEB about expanding the council’s coverage to encompass the Willow Creek watershed. Kevin will work with Michael on signing documentation for OWEB to make this change official. Kevin mentioned there are New Director Training options coming up this spring for anyone interested. Kevin gave an update on recent LUBGWMA committee meetings which involved approving bylaws for the committee and approving alternate members. There is a NW Groundwater Conference in Pasco the beginning of March that Kevin is potentially going to attend.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Kevin gave an update on our new website hosting company; Streamline will be launching our website in March. Kevin, Jennifer, and Steve Cherry have been working with the OSFM office about a Defensible Space project that would help clean debris around Blakes Ranch and Cutsforth Park communities. Kevin had a meeting with representatives from the Department of Homeland Security about some proposed modifications with the lease agreement. Panic buttons, installing new carpet, and changes to more secure public entry into the district office were a few of the modifications discussed. Kevin also brought up that Trent will need health insurance under the district policy now.

Jim made a motion to approve Trent to sign up for health insurance under the district policy, and the motion passed with all board members in favor.

No public comments.

The next meeting will be March 7th at the Heppner office and via zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 am.