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**

 9/12/2023 MINUTES

Board of Directors Staff & guests

 Miff Devin – Chair, Zone 1 Jared Huddleston – Nat Res Project Manager

 Jim McElligott – Vice Chair, At-large Corey Sweeney – County Weed Department

Colin McElligott – Zone 2 Kevin Payne – District Manager Theresa DeBardelaben – ODA

 Shiloh Simrell - ODA

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Miff Devin.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

The minutes from the June 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 and approved by the board.

**PARTNER REPORTS**: Corey Sweeney gave an update on some of his activities throughout the summer. He conducted 200 miles of roadside spraying, and worked on various weed issues with ranchers and some farmers. Had some code enforcements and worked on viable arial applicators for Morrow County. Developed cost analysis for various weed projects. Discovered Plumeless thistle at Eight-mile Historical Site after 5 years of dormancy. Sprayed for puncturevine on several roads and started two-week long Bermuda grass project.

Kevin read through Jennifer Wilson’s report for NRCS. Completed 29 CSP classic applications and have 12 CSP renewals applications to process this fall. Collecting EQIP applications until November 15th which include forestry, range, and irrigation on the north end. Completed all CRP plans and need to certify last year’s sign ups. Staff update: Raeanne has accepted a Small Farms Specialist job out of the Pendleton office.

Theresa and Shiloh from Oregon Department of Agriculture gave a brief update on upcoming work with the district and updates with ODA staffing. Theresa mentioned that our district has an upcoming full review and edit of our Ag Water Quality Plan for the Willow Creek watershed. One major note of change Theresa spoke on was that there needs to be a focus on LUBGWMA activities and groundwater quality stated in the plan.

**DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE**: Kevin presented updates on a number of various projects he has been working on which include the approval of an AgWQ Support Grant that will inventory crops/irrigation equipment on the north end of the county. Discussed the SIA boundary for our proposed SIA in the Boardman/Irrigon area. Discussed with the board about Pinegate Renewables mitigation activities and also gave an update on the Lower Willow Creek Aquifer Recharge Project.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Working with contractors on paint/carpet/doorbells (lease/Dept. of Homeland Security). Drought declaration support materials provided to the County Commissioners. CBASS missions 2023 update. Small Grants available (New biennium). OSFM Blakes Ranch Project update. RMEF Wildlife Friendly Fencing Phase IV & V updates. Habitat Tech vacancy update.

Kevin presented a couple of equipment purchases that need approval from the board. Miff, Jim, and Colin all voted and were in favor and approved the purchase of a new Mavic 3 Pro drone with a max amount of $4,500 allotted for the purchase. Miff, Jim, and Colin also approved the purchase of a meeting OWL 3 speaker for $1,200.

There were no public comments

The next meeting will be October 10th at 6pm in Heppner at the Ag Service Center building and available via zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.