

Morrow SWCD
Morrow County Weed Advisory Board
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Amended: _____
Approved: _____
Recorder: _____
Secretary: _____

2/4/2025 MINUTES

Board of Directors

Miff Devin – Chair, Zone 1
Jim McElligott – Vice Chair, At-large
Colin McElligott – Zone 2
Duane Neiffer – At-large

Staff & guests

Jared Huddleston – Nat Res Project Manager
Kevin Payne – District Manager
Jared Schiller – Habitat/CREP Tech
Corey Sweeney – Weed Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Miff Devin.

ACTION ITEMS:

The newly elected board member, Duane Neiffer, read his oath of office to start the meeting.

Election of board officers: Jim McElligott made a motion to keep all the officers’ role the same except to have Colin McElligott take Jim’s role as the Vice Chair. Duane seconded the motion and the motion passed all in favor.

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved by the board. The annual meeting minutes from January’s meeting were also reviewed and approved by the board.

STAFF REPORTS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: Written staff reports were included in board packets; the January financial reports were reviewed by the board.

PARTNER REPORTS: Kevin shared Jennifer Wilson’s report for NRCS. EQIP budget got cut in half due to executive order to pause all IRA funding. Currently ranking EQIP applications which are due February 28th. Taking CSP applications until February 28th. The local work group meeting is scheduled for February 26th at the Ag service center in Heppner at 10am. All hiring and travel is on pause.

Corey Sweeney shared an update on recent county weed department activities. Activities included drone training to acquire part 107 certification, picked up a new spray apparatus for one of the county’s spray vehicles, and upcoming plans to spray county roads this spring. The department is also expecting to gain another full-time employee this upcoming summer.

DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE: Kevin gave an update on some LUBGWMA activities and informed the board that our district will no longer be listed as the lead agency. ODA, DEQ, and OWRD will now be considered the lead agencies for the LUBGWMA. Kevin talked about new OACD dues changing their structure to just reflect a percentage of revenue for districts. Kevin informed the board of a new opportunity that came to him from Steve Cherry and ODFW. ODFW had some surplus Open Range G herbicide that targets annual grasses and wants to give our district some of the chemical to distribute to local landowners.

OTHER BUSINESS: Kevin got a bid for a new hot water heater for the district building. The district is entered into the St. Patrick’s Day parade coming up in March.

There were no public comments

The next meeting will be March 4th at 6pm in Heppner at the Ag Service Center building and available via zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46pm.