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**

 5/2/2023 MINUTES

Board of Directors Staff & guests

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

 Jim McElligott – Vice Chair, At-large Jared Huddleston – Nat Res Project Manager

Duane Neiffer – At Large

Colin McElligott – Zone 2

Brian Doherty – Treasuer

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

**ACTION ITEMS:**

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

The next action item was for the board to review the district’s new proposed janitorial service vendor. Colin made a motion to approve Jacque Wilson’s janitorial service for $750.00/month, Jim seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

The next action item was for Jared Huddleston’s wage increase of $600.00/month with some added financial/administrative duties. Jim made a motion to approve the wage increase, Colin seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

**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**: Kevin presented Jennifer Wilson’s NRCS report. CRP grasslands staff are making field visits for interested participants. CRP sign up 60, staff are making conservation plans and assisting reseed participants. EQIP late requested money has been awarded funding 7 new forestry contracts. CSP classic, staff currently working on assessments of 50 applications due June 2nd. All staff are attending May 5th Ag technology field day and also taking the soils trailer up to Tupper outdoor school.

**DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE**: Kevin gave an update on a groundwater recharge project with Kip Krebs down in Lower Willow Creek area near Ione. Kip has acquired some funding for an Oregon Water Resource Department feasibility study. Kevin received a call from Gallatin Power about receiving some potential mitigation funds for a new solar project located in Morrow County. Kevin submitted an ODA Ag Water Quality support grant to inventory cropping and sprinkler systems in the LUBGWMA and in Morrow County in general. Kevin brought up that he has had some discussions with DEQ and the LUBGWMA committee about the district’s role as the lead agency for the LUBGWMA. Kevin was concerned that the statutes state the lead agency is responsible for “mandatory actions” and SWCDs are non-regulatory which may be a conflict with our general operating procedures. Kevin wanted feedback from all board members on this matter. All board members agreed that the district should not be in a position to hand out mandatory actions to landowners, and should explore to be removed as the lead agency.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Kevin gave an update on some of the new office upgrades that are required with the new lease agreement. He has been working on getting bids for painting, new carpet, and security systems.

Spray Days is planned for May 15th in Boardman, May 17th in Irrigon, and May 19th in Heppner. Fish dissection lab for Tupper outdoor school is planned for both Heppner and Ione schools. Kevin also has the Wildlife Habitat Tech job posting posted.

There were no public comments

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm.