

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

6/3/2025 MINUTES

Board of Directors

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

Staff & guests

Jared Huddleston – Nat Res Project Manager
Kevin Payne – District Manager
Jennifer Wilson – NRCS District Conservationist
Nate Adelman – NRCS Basin Team Leader

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Miff Devin.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Kevin proposed to the district board members about the annual 3% raises that go into effect July 1st of every year. This year he proposed Kevin Payne & Jared Huddleston will receive the regular 3% raise and Jared Schiller will receive a 6% raise since he is no longer a probationary employee and the ODFW funds the district receives will cover most of the Habitat Tech’s salary. Colin McElligott made a motion to approve the July raises as Kevin presented, Jim McElligott seconded the motion, and the motion passed all in favor, none opposed.

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

PARTNER REPORTS: Jennifer Wilson and Nate Adelman shared their reports for NRCS. Nate Adelman is the new John Day Basin Team Leader and is trying to make the rounds to all the SWCDs in the basin. He gave a history of his previous work experience with NRCS. He also gave updates on some of the staffing changes throughout the state that have affected NRCS. He mentioned that the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds dedicated towards fiscal year 2025 have been put on pause by the administration.

Jennifer gave general updates on EQIP contracts and some recent outreach activities some of her staff attended. The NRCS has had no recent staffing changes.

DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE: Kevin told the Board about our upcoming financial review scheduled in the Fall of 2025 and continuing using Connected Professional Accountants LLC based out of La Grande to complete our review.

OTHER BUSINESS: Kevin mentioned that the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Small Forestland grant program had some extra funds this year that our district was able to use to do some defensible space work up around the Penland Lake area the first week of June this year.

There were no public comments

The next meeting will be September 9th at 6pm in Heppner at the Ag Service Center building and available via zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.