

Regular Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order on April 14th, 2026, by Jordan Maley at 12:00pm
Transcribed by Jess Gillen

Attendees

Rich Harper, Secretary/Treasurer
Jordan Maley, Board Chair
Doug Potter, Director
John Anderson, Vice Chair
Chet Wilkins, Director
Roger Lathrop, SWCD
Herb Winters, District Manager
Norie Wright, Office Manager
Jessica Gillen, SWCD
Nathan Adleman, NRCS
Will Coltrin, NRCS
Skylar Palmer, OSU
Brent Smith, ODA
Nick Welp, Producer

Unable to Attend:

Adrianna Salutregui, FSA
Jessica Jones, NRCS

Agenda

❖ Old Business

- Minutes Approval
- Financials Approval
- Checks/Accounts Payable Approval

❖ New Business

- Upcoming Events
- Staff Travel & Purchases Approval
- Staff Reports
- Partner Updates
- Board Discussion
- Gilliam County Weed Advisory Committee

Old Business

- ❖ **Minutes:** The regular meeting & budget meeting minutes from March 2026 were presented to the Board for review.

Rich Harper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Doug Potter seconded that motion.

John- Aye

Rich- Aye

Jordan- Aye
Chet- Aye
Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the meeting minutes passed unanimously as presented.

- ❖ **Financials:** The financial report from March 2026 was presented to the Board for review.

Chet Wilkins made a motion to approve the financials as presented.
John Anderson seconded that motion.

John- Aye
Jordan- Aye
Rich- Aye
Chet- Aye
Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the financial report passed unanimously.

- ❖ **Checks/Accounts Payables:** Accounts Payable for March 2026 were reviewed and signed per fiscal control policy:

- Checks/Accounts Payable (Action Item)

Name	Amount
Bank of Eastern Oregon	8,040.61
Brian Wright	500.00
Campbell Cattle Ranch LLC	4,000.00
City of Condon	580.55
Columbia Basin Electric Coop	649.33
Forest Green Marketing LLC	11,666.00
Home Telephone Company	145.74
Innova Legal Advisors	657.00
McGregor	176.35
Streamline	7,545.60
Sue Greer	1,900.00
Sustainable Northwest	42,936.00
Temp-Rite	210.00
Times Journal	408.00
Visa	3,338.10
	82,753.28

John Anderson made a motion to approve the accounts payable as presented.

Rich Harper seconded that motion.

John- Aye

Rich- Aye

Jordan- Aye

Chet- Aye

Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the accounts payable passed unanimously.

New Business

❖ Upcoming Events:

- Lower John Day Working Group Meeting- April 21st, 2026 @10:00am

❖ Staff Travel & Purchases:

- Travel
 - None.
- Purchases
 - Virtual Fence Equipment- Applicants for the virtual fence program need equipment now, so purchasing equipment is time sensitive. The SWCD would like to use some of the Avengrid funds for this equipment. The estimated funds amount is between \$25,000.00 to \$40,000.00.

John Anderson made a motion to approve the purchase of virtual fence equipment with Avengrid and grant funds as presented.

Rich Harper seconded that motion.

John- Aye

Rich- Aye

Jordan- Aye

Chet- Obtained from vote.

Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the purchase of virtual fence equipment with Avengrid funds passed unanimously.

❖ Staff Reports:

- **Herb Winters, District Manager:**
 - Covered topic with verbal District Manager's Report (Attached).
- **Norie Wright, Office Manager:**
 - Covered topics with a written report.
- **Roger Lathrop, Conservation Tech II:**
 - Covered topics with a written report.
- **Jessica Gillen, Conservation Tech I:**

- Covered topics with a written report.

❖ **Partner Updates:**

- **Adriana Salutregui, FSA:** Herb gave a written report.
 - Farmers Bridge Assistance Program deadline is April 17th, 2026.
 - Supplemental Disaster Relief Program deadline is April 30th, 2026.
 - Spring Acreage Reporting deadline is July 15th, 2026.
 - ARC/PLC not announced.
 - Grassland CRP not announced.
 - Gilliam County is in the second week of D2 drought. Ranchers should begin thinking about updating leases for LFP.
 - Emergency grazing will open after the nesting season on July 15th, 2026.
- **Skylar Palmer, OSU Extension:**
 - There is no available funding this year for spraying Mormon Crickets. Historically, the Mormon Cricket population is affected by cold/wet winters, which has not been a factor this year.
 - Herb mentioned the enhanced rock weathering carbon credits, which entail crushing rock into spreadable powder over fields. The board requested more information on this and a possible presentation to better understand the process.
- **Brent Smith, ODA:**
 - Brent gave an update for ODA. The reporting hub has been refined so it is easier for SWCDs to report.
 - The next TMDL meeting will be held in May. Reach out to Brent with further questions.

❖ **Board Discussion:**

- **Policy and Administrative Updates:**
 - Administrative
 - Barnett & Moro Standard Audit Contract- Norie presented a letter from Barnett & Moro stating they are interested in continuing our account with them for the following 25-26 audit. This is not a letter of engagement.

Rich Harper made a motion to approve the letter with Barnett & Moro as presented.

Doug Potter seconded that motion.

John- Aye

Rich- Aye

Jordan- Aye

Chet- Aye

Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the letter with Barnett & Moro passed unanimously.

- SDIS Employee Health Benefits- Norie presented to board the Districts renewal insurance rates.

Doug Potter made a motion to approve the SDIS benefits as presented.

Doug Potter seconded that motion.

John- Aye

Rich- Aye

Jordan- Aye

Chet- Aye

Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the SDIS benefits passed unanimously.

- Policy
 - Employee Evaluation Update- Employee evaluations were held, and the Evaluation Committee recommendation will be made in May.

❖ **Agreements and Contracts for Approval:**

- Contracts:
 - 2026_OSU_CTWS
 - 2026_JDBP-Monitoring_CTWS
 - 2026_Anabranh_HaySIA

Chet Wilkins made a motion to approve the contracts as presented.

John Anderson seconded that motion.

John- Aye

Rich- Aye

Jordan- Aye

Chet- Aye

Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the contracts passed unanimously.

- Grant Agreements:
 - None.
- Upcoming Grant Applications:
 - None.

❖ **Updates:**

- Virtual Fencing Program Update- Discussion was held on the Virtual Fence Program and the need for immediate funds in order to purchase time-sensitive equipment. Refer to "purchases" for more information.
- Drought Declaration- Herb presented the Gilliam County Emergency Drought Declaration to the board for review.

Rich Harper made a motion to approve the Gilliam County Emergency Drought Declaration Report as presented.

Chet Wilkins seconded that motion.

John- Aye
Rich- Aye
Jordan- Aye
Chet- Aye
Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the Gilliam County Emergency Drought Declaration Report passed unanimously.

- John Day TMDL Annual Report- Herb presented the board with the 2025 Annual TMDL Report and gave a broad overview of the report. It was requested by one of the board members the need for removal of Alder trees along the creek, and the replacement of a more desirable tree.

Rich Harper made a motion to approve the TMDL Annual Report as presented.

Chet Wilkins seconded that motion.

John- Aye
Rich- Aye
Jordan- Aye
Chet- Aye
Doug- Aye

The motion to approve the TMDL Annual Report passed unanimously.

❖ **Outreach:**

- None.

❖ **District Manager Update 4-13-2026.**

1. Events

- **OWEB/ODFW Climate Resilience Design Workshop (EO 25-26) – Salem**
- **District Manager’s Training**
- **JDBP Technical Working Group Meeting**
- **CONNECT Conference**
- **Beaver Webinar Series**

2. Agency/Capacity/Reporting Updates

- **BPA:** Roger has submitted his SOW for the Riparian Buffer Program, and it is pending BPA approval.
- **CTWS:** No updates.
- **OWRD:** No updates.
- **ODA:** No updates.
- **DEQ:** No updates.

- **BLM:** Final designs have been completed. BLM is working on permits.
- **OWEB:** No updates.

3. NRCS Updates

- **RCP:** We continue to plan for a future RCP proposal with partners. Unfortunately, we haven't seen an announcement for the program yet.
- **CIG:** No updates.

4. Open Project Updates

- **John Day Basin Partnership UAV (220-8208):** This grant is nearing completion with report development underway.
- **Thirtymile CEP:** Work continues with OWEB staff.
- **Steelhead/Bass Interaction (222-8208-22645):** No updates.
- **Rock Creek Riparian Fencing, Planting, and Livestock Distribution (223-6022-23020):** Work continues on fencing and water developments.
- **Lower John Day Coordination (OWRD):** No updates.
- **Lower John Day Biological Assessment (OWRD):** We have received additional funding to complete this project and will be meeting with agency partners this spring to finalize the deliverables.
- **Lower Thirtymile Restoration Project (BLM):** We are on schedule to implement this summer. Norie is working with BLM on permits, and a meeting is scheduled this Wednesday with the contractors.
- **Thirtymile Monitoring Phase III (OWEB-FIP):** Led by ODFW, the project is in progress.
- **Middle Thirtymile LTPBR (OWEB/FIP):** No updates.
- **Thirtymile Steelhead Productivity (OWEB/FIP):** No updates.
- **Rock/Butte Creek Floodplain Prioritization (OWRD/OWEB):** Work is underway by the contractor.
- **Comstock Basin Riparian Fencing and Upland Improvement:** This project is 75% complete.
- **Virtual Fencing Program Development (OWEB):** We continue to work with the Uplands Committee for the John Day Basin Partnership to complete this work.
- **John Day Basin FIP Accomplishments Outreach (224-8208-24322):** Logistics are being planned for 2026 video production.
- **Hay Creek SIA (OWEB):** No updates.
- **John Day Basin Post-Fire TA:** No updates.
- **Thirtymile Watershed Beaver Recovery and Resiliency Program:** The project is progressing well. Reese is performing her analysis following the completed surveys and will be working with Roger and me to develop an action plan for Thirtymile with an emphasis on beaver habitat and forage.

- **226-6009 – Big Mossy Riparian Fencing, Planting, and Livestock Distribution:** The project has been funded.
- **226-6010 – Hay Creek Riparian Fencing and Planting:** The project has been funded.
- **226-6013 – Upper Thirtymile Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration Phase 2:** The project has been funded.
- **Gilliam County Virtual Fencing Expansion:** This project was approved by the County Court, and staff has been working with the board to develop ranking priorities for equipment dispersal. We have received all of the producer applications and are now working out how to fund them. Cost-share will likely be structured at 75/25.
- **John Day Basin Partnership FIP 2.0:** This is a new project and a significant lift for the partnership. We will be drafting the FIP 2.0 application, due in July. If funded, this could bring an additional \$12 million to the John Day Basin, with the Thirtymile Watershed again identified as a priority geography.

5. Pending Projects

- **SNW NFWF Application (Virtual Fencing):** Sustainable Northwest is submitting an NFWF application for virtual fencing equipment with a focus on wildlife movement.

6. Completed/Monitoring Phase OWEB Projects

- **Gilliam County CREP Technical Assistance (224-8100-23197):** No updates.
- **Steelhead Migration & Overshoot Monitoring (221-6042):** No updates.
- **Butte-Thirtymile Monitoring Phase Two (222-8208-19972):** No updates.
- **Thirtymile Hydrologic Assessment (222-8208-22648):** No updates.
- **Sniption LTPBR (222-8208-19974):** No updates.
- **Upper Thirtymile LTPBR (222-8208-19973):** No updates.
- **Thirtymile Hydrologic Assessment (222-8208-22648):** Final report approved by OWEB.
- **John Day Basin Partnership UAV Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (220-8208-17316):** Final due March 1, 2026.
- **Gilliam County Consultation Assistance (224-6014):** Final due July 31, 2026.
- **Thirtymile Steelhead/Bass Interaction (222-8208-22645):** Final due August 29, 2026.
- **Rock Creek Riparian Fencing, Planting, and Livestock Distribution (223-6022):** Final due August 29, 2026.
- **Wilson Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (220-8208-17303):** Monitoring report due August 31, 2026.
- **Wet Fork Hay Creek LTPBR (223-6003):** Completion report has been submitted and approved.

7. Gilliam County Project Updates

- **TMDL Plan Implementation:** Staff has completed the annual report to DEQ on behalf of the County. The report will be presented to the Board for approval at tomorrow's meeting, ahead of the April 14, 2026 deadline.
- **FEMA / FMAG Grant Applications:** Staff continues to work with OEM to ensure that this funding makes its way to the County. We still expect to receive this funding.

❖ Board Discussion

- None.

❖ Public Comment

- No Comments.

❖ Gilliam County Weed Advisory Committee: 1:18pm

- Doug gave an update for the weed department. The department is still waiting for a signed contract with ODOT to spray roadsides. The department will be treating around 300 acres of white top in Lonerock soon.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on May 12th, 2026, at 12:00pm.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

- TBA

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned by Jordan Maley, Board Chairman, at 1:22pm

Approved _____

Date _____

Jordan Maley, Chairman