



Grant Soil and Water Conservation District
721 S. Canyon Blvd. - John Day, OR 97845 - Phone (541) 575-0135
MINUTES OF GRANT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
November 1, 2018 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair – Director
Pat Voigt - Director
Rick Henslee – Director

Joanne Keerins - Director
Roger Ediger – Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Staff:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Jason Kehrberg - District Manager

Visitors:

Eric Nusbaum – ODA SWCD Program Operations Specialist

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes - **Phil moved to approve the September 6, 2018 meeting minutes. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors in attendance.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Lorraine reported she has begun working on 2018 CSP payments. To date, 80% of the contracts have the required contract documentation turned in. The John Day office is working on the following number of contracts; EQIP -20, CSP - 15, and RCPP - 12, for a total of almost a \$1,000,000. A new Farm Bill has not been approved, and as a result there is uncertainty regarding the future of the CSP Program. The John Day office recently hired a second planner, Hannah Maers. Trent Luschen, Farm Service Agency, has asked for upland and timber grazing loss assessments from Lorraine and the Directors. Please provide feedback to Trent by mid-November.
6. OSU Ext. - A representative was unable to attend.
7. BOR – A representative was unable to attend.
8. John Day Basin Trust - A representative was unable to attend.
9. ODFW Wildlife – A representative was unable to attend.
10. ODFW Fisheries – A representative was unable to attend.
11. ODFW Fish Habitat – A representative was unable to attend.
12. CTWSR of OR – A representative was unable to attend.
13. ODA – A representative was unable to attend.
14. Malheur National Forest – A representative was unable to attend.
15. Freshwater Trust - A representative was unable to attend.
16. USFWS Partners Program – A representative was unable to attend.

17. North Fork John Day Watershed Council – A representative was unable to attend.
18. Upper South Fork Watershed Council – Joanne gave the report in Amy's absence. The Council recently received its 501(c)(3) status and has been busy completing those arrangements. The Council is continuing to work with the Malheur Forest on the Bark Project.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Board Practices Assessment – Eric Nusbaum, ODA SWCD Program Operations Specialist, explained the Board Practices Assessment is to assist Districts with risk management. Special Districts did not have the necessary staff to provide this assessment to all their member districts. Eric received training from Special Districts on the assessment in order to make it available to Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Eric stated he would take notes on the board discussion and assessment comments and provide a list of recommendations to the District. The recommendations will have a 60 and 90 day follow up with Eric.

Eric conducted the Board Practices Assessment. He asked the Directors to rate their Board performance as Good (green), Caution (yellow), or in Danger (red), in 6 Key Performance Areas. Those Areas included; Board Duties and Responsibilities, Operational Compliance, Budget and Finance, Customer Relations, Personnel Administration, and Policies and Procedures.

22. Other -
23. Other -
24. Other -

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt reported the Weed Department has accomplished noxious weed treatments on the Malheur Forest, Leafy Spurge treatment in partnership with Monument SWCD and Yellow Star Thistle treatment for Wheeler SWCD under an ODA weed grant. Matt attended the OVMA Conference held in Seaside. The conference provided information on the issue of herbicide spraying on road right of ways in certified organic areas. Oregon Tilth is beginning the dialogue on the issue. Matt has been working with a group to develop a certification process for weed free gravel pits that will be used state wide. Jason and Matt toured the Phil Schneider Wildlife Area to view the performance of a new Medusa Head Rye control herbicide. Matt showed pictures of the treated areas. ODFW purchased a specialized air spreader to apply the material and is considering buying a second spreader to loan to the District for use in making applications on private lands.
26. District Programs – Jason reported the District is nearing completion of three stockwater projects in the Middle Fork area. Two OWEB grant applications were submitted on October 29th, the McGirr Fox Creek Passage and Habitat Project and the Greenwood Upland Improvements, which will complement RCPP funding. The John Day Basin FIP implementation funding application received a high rating of #3 out of 10. The District received the OWEB agreement to address two diversions on the John Day mainstem this summer. Rental of the District's new rangeland drill began this past month with three landowners renting it.

Jason stated Phil Brown; a Hydrogeologist with Northwest Groundwater Services, LLC is interested in attending a future Board meeting to share information regarding ground water research and project examples.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of September and October 2018 were reviewed.
28. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of September and October 2018. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Patrick Voigt

Board Chair

12-6-18

Date

[Signature]

District Manager

12/6/18

Date