



---

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  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 MEETING**

**Attendance**

**Directors:**

Phil St. Clair – Director  
Pat Voigt - Director  
Nick Stiner – Associate Director  
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Joanne Keerins - Director  
Roger Ediger – Director  
Rick Henslee - Director

**Staff:**

Jason Kehrberg - District Manager  
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

**Visitors:**

Russ Powell – OR Dept. Fish & Wildlife  
Maria Snodgrass - OR Dept. Agriculture

Tessa Edelen – OR Dept. Environmental Quality

**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 February 7th, 2019 meeting minutes. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors –Maria introduced Tessa Edelen, who works for the Department of Environmental Quality and administers the 319 grant program.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – A representative was unable to attend.
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 – Russ stated plans are to implement four fence projects in 2019, install BDA's in Hay Creek, and maintain the 300 miles of fence currently enrolled in the program.
12. CTWSR of OR – A representative was unable to attend.
13. ODA –Maria handed out the Oregon Agricultural Water Quality 2018 Compliance Program Report and the information sheet on the Economic Impact of the Food and Ag Industries in Oregon. She stated the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan is complete and has been put on ODA's web page. There is an increasing amount of support for Strategic Implementation Areas' (SIA's) in the state. ODA's 2019 -21 budget includes funding for two additional staff members to work with SIA's. Plans are to increase the number of SIA's in state from six a year to nine and plan for twelve in the future.
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 has been conducting business as usual and preparing for the change in staff. Plans are to have the position filled and committed by May 1<sup>st</sup>, with a start date of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
19. Monument SWCD– A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

21. 2017-18 Audit Review – Pat Holliday reviewed the District's 2017-18 audit with the Directors. **Phil moved to approve Grant SWCD's 2017-18 audit. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
22. Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update – Risk Assessment – Jason stated the District is participating in the Steering Committee to update Grant County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The District has been asked to complete a Grant County Natural Hazard Risk Assessment. The results of the Assessment will be compiled with other participants input and used to develop a mitigation strategy to reduce risk factors. The strategy will assist Grant County in qualifying for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds in the future if needed. Jason went over each question with the Directors and answers were discussed.
23. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2) (a) –To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent – Pat Voigt stated Item 23 will be moved to after item 28.
24. Other –

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

25. Weed Control – Matt reported the 2019 spray season is getting underway after a slow start due to weather conditions with treatment of County roads and rock pits. Matt and Shane attended an OR County Weed Control Association meeting held in Prineville. Information was provided on ODA funding issues and future changes in the grant program. The 25% Cost-Share program is currently being advertised in the Blue Mt. Eagle. Plans are to advertise the 50% Cost-Share program the end of April. Matt stated he expects to receive funding from BLM designated specifically to treat noxious weeds along the John Day River. This will allow more of Grant Weed Control's BLM funding to be used for noxious weed control within Grant County.
26. District Programs–Jason reported since Levi has left the District it has been necessary to suspend new project development. Technical resources are focused on the McGirr Fox Creek Passage & Habitat, Ricco Hall Ditch Diversion and the Ricco JDR Diversion projects. They will be implemented in the 2019 instream work window along with two adaptive management projects. District staff has been working to support landowner enrollment in the second round of the RCPP Program. Kyle has been working on OWEB grants to supplement the RCPP program as well as a grant to partner with ODFW's riparian fence program.

Jason reported he has been working on grant applications to conduct a feasibility analysis to implement active aquifer recharge projects within the Upper Mainstem John Day Sub-Basin. The proposal would include surveying and mapping existing geologic formations with an Airborne Electromagnetic Survey, evaluating existing hydrologic data, identifying priority locations and pilot projects to demonstrate resulting aquifer management benefits. Potential funding sources include the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant Program and Oregon Water Resources Department Water Feasibility Study Grants Program.

#### **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of February and March 2019 were reviewed.
28. Approve Bills– **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of February and March 2019. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

At 5:10 pm Pat Voigt stated the meeting would have a 10 minute break and then go into Executive Session, under ORS 192.660(2) (a).

Pat Voigt declared the meeting back in open session at 6:20 pm. **Roger moved to have Jason develop an updated job description for the Grant SWCD District Manager and to advertise the position. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously. Joanne moved to allow Jason to work a 24 hour work week, Monday through Wednesday, until a new District Manager is hired. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_

District Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date