



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 7th, 2019 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

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

Pat Voigt - Director
Phil St. Clair - Director

Staff:

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council
Maria Snodgrass – OR Dept. Agriculture

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes - **Roger moved to approve the October 3rd, 2019 meeting minutes. Joanne 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 – Aaron reported the staff has been working on CSP payments. He recently met with Kyle and Pat regarding giving the Board an update on Civil Rights issues in early 2020. He has been coordinating with Matt on the annual grass trials in partnership with ARS and is looking forward to seeing the results in the spring and summer of 2020.
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 – Maria handed out the October 2019 OR Agriculture Facts & Figures brochure. She would like to answer any questions the Directors may have regarding Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA's). Maria explained the inclusion of agencies early in the partner participation process would enable ODA to be informed of projects already being implemented between the agencies and landowners. ODA has been working with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Oregon Farm Bureau on a state level but not necessarily at the local level. Pat V. stated the Directors take very seriously their role representing local landowners. Roger stated he has a difficult time with the SIA 2019-2021 Implementation Process as presented in the Partner Overview (v.2 August 2019), particularly with the language of voluntary water conservation. He feels that as a landowner and original Local Advisory Committee member, the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day AG

Water Quality Plan is not his plan nor is it a local plan and that regardless of how much agriculture does to improve water quality it will never be enough for the State of Oregon. Maria said Strategic Implementation Areas have had good support from the Governors Natural Resource Committee and environmental groups. Maria said she is willing to champion the District's suggestions and ideas on working with landowners to ODA. Technical assistance funding is available for landowners within a SIA to complete water quality improvement projects. If landowners within the SIA are in compliance they are not required to participate in any projects. Several Directors who were members of the original Upper Mainstem Local Advisory Committee expressed their dissatisfaction of the Ag Water quality process. Joanne stated it was always her desire to have an Ag Water Quality Plan specific for Grant County and resents the fact that the state has more or less made all the Water Quality Plans the same. The Directors stated they felt a correct plan of action would be for the District to address its issues in writing to the OR Dept. Agriculture SIA Project Lead as well as Senator Bentz and Representative Findley.

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 – Amy reported Council staff has been busy with the submittal of fall OWEB grant applications. The Council completed 10 projects this last year and will be finalizing project reporting requirements this winter. Work will continue on the remaining 13 open projects. Amy stated the Council is planning to submit an RCPP proposal to accomplish ridge to ridge projects in the South Fork area, including upland and riparian projects. Hannah is doing well with the educational programs.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Letter regarding ODA SIAs – The Directors reviewed the letter regarding the Strategic Implementation Areas 2019-2021 Implementation Process Partner Overview (V. 2 August, 2019). The Directors agreed by consensus to send it to Brenda Sanchez, ODA Water Quality Policy Specialist. Roger stated he felt the District's concerns have been ignored for years and would like to send a copy to Senator Bentz and Representative Findley.
22. Water Optimization Proposal – Kyle reported Jason has been working on a grant, the Upper John Day Aquifer Management Feasibility Study, to be submitted to OR Water Resources by November 20th. The grant requests funding to complete an airborne electromagnetic method survey of a select area, encompassing 258 square miles of the valley and foothills along the Upper Mainstem John Day River. The recorded data will be analyzed to produce a three dimensional hydro geologic framework model of the associated geology to forecast aquifer characteristics, groundwater flow paths and potential recharged zones, and calculate potential storage capacity. Findings will qualify areas for receptiveness to support groundwater aquifer development, recharge, and recovery water management practices.
23. Other – Kyle reported the John Day Farm Service Agency will have a full time person in the office beginning Nov. 12th.
24. Other

DISTRICT PROGRAMS


25. Weed Control – Matt reported the weed department is beginning to wrap up the 2019 spray season. The Grazing Lands 25% Cost-Share program is continuing with treatment to be accomplished for two landowners. Residual treatment has started for the County Road Department and for Wheeler County and will continue until the weather prevents it. Matt, Nate and Colby attended the OVMA Conference in Seaside to learn about new products, control techniques, and receive continuing education credits. While at the OVMA convention Matt attended a meeting with Oregon Tilth Organic Certifiers on ways to work with Right-Of-Way applicators to satisfy weed control requirements in conjunction with organic requirements. Matt stated he has been invited to meet with Forest Service researchers regarding the control of Ventenata. 2020 ODA weed grant applications are due December 16th. Grant Weed Control will be submitted one application. Discussion followed on the spread and control of Sweetbriar Multiflora.
26. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors. The District submitted four grant applications to

OWEB. Jason has been working on the water optimization grant, with Cole focusing on the McGirr and Ricco projects. The District will be advertising the last fence contract for 2019 with ODFW later this month. The District's 2019-2020 CREP Technical Assistance Baker and Grant Counties grant application was approved.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

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

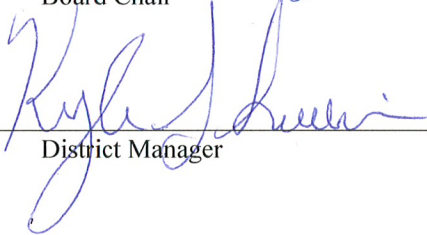
The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.



Board Chair

12-5-19

Date



District Manager

12-5-2019

Date