



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
June 7th, 2018 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair - Director
Pat Voigt - Director
Roger Ediger – Director

Nick Stiner – Associate Director
Rick Henslee - Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Staff:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Jason Kehrberg-District Manager

Visitors:

Lorraine Vogt – NRCS District Conservationist
Boyd Britton – Grant County Commissioner

Pam Powell – OR Dept. Fish & Wildlife

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 May 3rd, 2018 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Lorraine reported the staff has been working on EQIP and RCPP contracts and expect to have them all completed by Aug 1st. There is a total of 34 contracts; 4-High Tunnel, 2-Forestry in the Izee area, 4-Kahler Upland Improvement, 12-RCPP Blue Mts. Vegetation Health Initiative, 12-Northside Mule Deer Winter Habitat, totaling over \$1,000,000. An extension was received on the CSP ranking. There are 6 CSP applications in the process of being ranked. Discussion was held on the benefits of juniper removal.
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 – Pam reported the Desolation Phase III fence is complete. Currently work is being done on the Ten Mile Canyon fence as well as on Fox Creek. Looks like it will be a busy summer.
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.

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 – Phil reported the Council staff is very busy. The Council's expanded area has increased the potential for projects. Phil stated Amy, Council Coordinator, and staff do an excellent job.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Rangeland Drill Rental Agreement - Jason reviewed the Rangeland Drill Rental Agreement with the Directors and stated he wants to get away from the District losing track of how long the drill is located at one property. The agreement will increase the District's administrative time. **Phil moved to approve the Rangeland Drill Rental Agreement. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
22. New Auditor Search - Pat reported the difficulty the District has had obtaining the services of an auditor for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The District has contacted 16 different accounting firms in eastern and central Oregon. Of the firms contacted, only 4 were interested in receiving a Request for Proposal from the District. The majority of firms contacted were no longer doing government audits due to the increased requirements. Pat stated a local firm, Solutions, CPAs, formerly Oster Professional Group, would be interested in doing the District's audit, but is unable to, due to a conflict of interest. The District is currently waiting to hear from two firms who expressed an interest.
23. Other – At 4:20 Boyd Britton entered the meeting. He apologized for interrupting, and then stated he wanted the Directors to know what an outstanding staff the District had. He complimented the District for the outstanding assistance it had provided to landowners in the past and encouraged the District to continue in the future.
24. Other – Jason stated Roger, At Large 2 Position, and Joanne, Zone 1 Position, are up for reelection in November. The Declaration of Candidacy for Director and Petition for Nomination Signature Sheet are due to the OR. Dept. Agriculture by August 28th.

Jason reported the District has been notified that OR Dept. Agriculture selected Upper and Lower Fox Creek Watersheds to be the District's new Focus Area. The District will utilize LIDAR or equivalent survey data to quantify changes in streamside vegetation within the Focus Area. Discussion followed on the lack of landowner participation in the Focus Areas the District has been previously involved in.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Jason reported Matt is floating the John Day River conducting noxious weed control for the BLM. Matt recently met with Malheur Forest staff to prioritize treatment areas on the Forest. Grant Weed Control will perform noxious weed treatment on Malheur Forest land from Hwy 26 South to the 17 Road in Silvies Valley, on the east side of Hwy 395 and all the way to the 31 Road on the west side of Hwy 395.
26. District Programs – Jason stated work is being accomplished on three active fence contracts with ODFW as well as a contract on the North Fork Malheur River. Three Peaks Contracting was the successful bidder for the three stock water projects in the Ritter area. Choate Construction was the successful bidder for the Big Creek Floodplain Project. Bids will be opened next week for the Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project on the mainstem of the John Day River. The District only received one bid for cultural resources at a much higher price than anticipated. Jason is working with the firm to narrow the scope of the project to make it more affordable. Plans are to put out for bid identified maintenance of seven previously installed irrigation diversions. The District plans to apply for Title II funds in the future to accomplish additional maintenance on several other diversions. Jason said the majority of the previously installed diversions are working as designed.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of May 2018 were reviewed.
28. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of May 2018. Rick gave**

the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Board Chair

Date

District Manager

Date