



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
September 5th, 2019 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair – Director
Pat Voigt - Director

Joanne Keerins - Director
Roger Ediger – Director

Staff:

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – NRCS District Conservationist
Maria Snodgrass – OR Dept. Agriculture

Hannah Latzo - South Fork Watershed Council

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 August 1st, 2019 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – No visitors were in attendance.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS –Aaron reported the staff has been busy contacting landowners with reminders that the Conservation Security Program, CSP, reports are due the end of September. Aaron stated that in the past, Jason as District Manager, signed off on the mid-management activities for CREP contracts. He asked the Directors if they would like to return to the practice of the Directors reviewing the CREP contracts at a Board meeting. The Directors agreed by consensus that going forward they would prefer reviewing CREP contracts at a Board meeting. Aaron stated he would definitely keep the Directors informed. He presented four CREP contracts with Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for reenrollment. The CREP contracts are located on the Middle Fork of the John Day River and are divided into four tracts with irrigated and non-irrigated acres, for a total of four separate contracts. The reenrollment is a continuation of the current CREP contracts.

Aaron reported he has been working with ARS to set up ventenata test plots in Long Creek and Fox Valley. The plots will be testing a new technology using pelleted seeds with Esplanade 200SC. He may also set up a plot in the Marysville area to test the seeds for medusahead control.

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 reported OR Department of Agriculture is planning to change the schedule for the Ag Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Reviews. A light review will be conducted every two years with a major review every four. It is felt that four years will provide a better time frame to measure change. Management areas will be expected to have targets. OWEB has set aside two million dollars in the current biennium for Strategic Implementation Areas; including \$100,000 for capacity technical assistance and \$25,000 for monitoring for Districts that have a Strategic Implementation Area within their boundaries. ODA is receiving positive feedback from partners and the numbers are showing the majority of agriculture is doing a great job with water quality. Maria stated Brenda Sanchez is the new statewide lead for Strategic Implementation Areas and John Byers will be retiring the end of 2019.

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 – Hannah reported Council staff are updating maps and working on surveys with the Forest Service for the Bark Project. It is expected to be completed in 2020. The staff is also putting together several OWEB Small Grant applications.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Department of Land Conservation and Development Inter-Governmental Agreement – Kyle stated the District has been involved with the review and update of the 2014 Northeast Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This has resulted in a new, separate Grant County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) that reflects the unique needs and values of Grant County. When completed the plan will be adopted by Grant County, City of John Day, Grant ESD, Blue Mt. Hospital and the District and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and the County will lead the NHMP update process. The planning process is funded by a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation planning grant that requires contributions and adoption by formal resolution in 2020 by the participants. The Directors expressed concerns about agreeing to adopt a plan they have not had the opportunity to review. Kyle stated he felt it would be an innocuous plan for the District to be involved in. He will attend the meetings and put together some of the maps. Pat stated he was not concerned about agreeing to adopt the plan and that it provides a level of protection for the county. Kyle recommended the District sign the agreement in the future. **Roger moved to give Kyle the authority to sign agreement. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
22. Annual Budget Approval – Kyle presented the District's 2019-2020 budget. **Roger moved to approve Grant SWCD's 2019-2020 budget as presented. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
23. Other – Kyle stated he had been contacted by Oregon Public Broadcasting soliciting information regarding the Larson Project.
24. Other –


DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt was unable to attend due to meeting with a representative from Bayer regarding the potential use of herbicide to control annual grasses.
26. District Programs – Kyle reported the District has been requested by the John Day Basin Partnership and other partners to sponsor three proposals successfully enrolled in the Focus Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. These include fence construction on Junkens Creek located on the Umatilla Forest, fence construction and spring development on the Desolation Creek LLC property, and a request from ODFW to partner on the installation of fish screens and a siphon on Wiwaanaytt Creek. Kyle stated this is a good opportunity to work with our partners. Tereasa is working on a new CREP Technical Assistance grant application. Jason is working on an OWEB Small Grant application for a range and riparian enhancement project.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

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

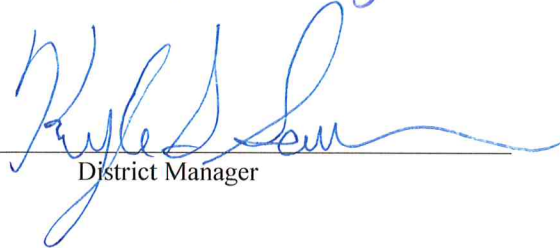
The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.



Board Chair

10-3-19

Date



District Manager

10-3-2019

Date