



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
February 1st, 2018 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

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

Joanne Keerins – Director
Rick Henslee - Director
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

Staff:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator
Shane Koppel – Noxious Weed Technician

Jason Kehrberg-District Manager
Kyle Sullivan-GSWCD GIS/Engineering Technician

Visitors:

Maria Snodgrass – ODA Water Quality Specialist

Lorraine Vogt – NRCS District Conservationist

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 December 7th, 2017 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Matt introduced Shane Koppel. Shane started on January 15, 2018 as the new Noxious Weed Technician. Matt reported Shane has already passed the Public Applicator test with one category. The Directors all introduced themselves and welcomed Shane to the District.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Lorraine reported the John Day office has a new CREP Technician, Tereasa Perkins. The Local Work Group met January 30th with a good turnout that provided valuable input. The 2018 EQIP Priority Areas include the Northside Mule Deer Habitat including juniper and aspen treatment, the John Day Upper Basin with forestry, Kahler Upland Improvements, and the Statewide Initiatives including seasonal high tunnels, energy, and organic. The Local Work Group agreed to continue with the current priority resource issues; invasive species (including juniper, annual grasses & herbaceous weeds), forest health, grazing management, water quality and quantity, and easements. The application deadline for EQIP is March 16th, the CSP (Conservation Security Program) deadline is March 2nd, with the CIG (Conservation Innovation Grant) deadline at February 23rd. Lorraine stated in 2018-19 the John Day office will focus on the two RCPP contracts; the District's Blue Mt. Vegetation Health Initiative and CTWSR's Upper John Day River Flow and Protection.
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 stated she was in the area attending the North Middle Fork Interim Local Advisory Committee meeting. Maria said the meeting went well but few members were able 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 – In Amy's absence Joanne reported the staff has been working on getting the CRMP group kicked off, making presentations to several groups. The first meeting will be held February 28th at the OR Dept. Forestry meeting room.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Annual Board Officer Elections and Associate Director Appointments – Jason stated Director Officer Elections and reappointment of Associate Directors needs to be done the first Board meeting of each calendar year. **Joanne moved to elect Pat Voigt as Board Chairman, Phil St. Clair as Vice-Chairman, and Roger Ediger as Treasurer, and to re-appoint Kristy St. Clair, Ted Clausen, and Nick Stiner as Associate Directors. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
22. Ag Water Quality Riparian Vegetation Assessment Methods – Jason stated monitoring Ag water quality is a challenge. The District's last two Focus Areas; ODA chose and completed the vegetation assessments. The District conducted the outreach and provided funding opportunities and technical assistance to landowners interested in implementing a water quality improvement project. The District appreciates ODA for completing the assessments; however they cannot continue to do them. Jason has been brainstorming with Kyle regarding how the District can conduct a fair vegetation assessment. Kyle gave a presentation showing how LIDAR data can be used to assess vegetation height and calculating the change over time. The presentation compared data from LIDAR flights in 2006 and 2017 on an area of the Upper Mainstem of the John Day River. With the data, it was possible to measure the height of riparian vegetation and then calculate a volume of material for each of the two years; the increase in vegetation was expressed as a percent increase over the 11 year period. Discussion followed on the possibilities of using this method of vegetation assessment.

The Directors discussed the issues associated with the District choosing a new Focus Area. Pat, Phil, Joanne and Rick stated they were not in favor of the District choosing a Focus Area. By consensus the Directors agreed to have the District conduct vegetation assessment for a Focus Area chosen by OR Dept. of Agriculture.
23. Surplus Equipment Sale Update – Jason reported the first surplus equipment bids received on December 29, 2017 resulted in the sale of 7 of the 14 items, totaling \$12,586. The remaining items have had the minimum bids adjusted and will be advertised along with two ATV's from the Weed Department. The new bids will open on February 2, 2018. The District hopes to generate enough revenue from the surplus equipment sales, in addition to private donation funds, to purchase a new rangeland drill for approximately \$35,000 plus shipping from Wyoming.
24. Annual Meeting presentation – Mark Webb, with Blue Mt. Forest Partners, suggested the District consider hosting Ryan Niemeyer, PhD as a presenter for the District's 2018 Annual Meeting. Ryan has done extensive research regarding the effects of juniper expansion to hydrologic systems in the arid regions of the western United States. Jason stated he is available April 3rd. The Directors agreed by consensus to ask Ryan Niemeyer to be the special speaker at the Annual Meeting. Jason will follow up with Ryan.
25. 2016-17 Audit Review – **Pat reviewed the 2016-17 audit with the Directors. Phil moved to approve Grant SWCD's 2016-17 audit. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

26. Weed Control – Matt reported Grant Weed Control submitted an OR State Weed Board grant, Grant County Top 5 Priority Weeds, to treat the top five noxious weeds in Grant County; Rush skeleton weed, Yellow Flag Iris, Plumeless thistle, Squarrose knapweed, and Perennial pepperweed. Grant Weed also partnered with the Crooked River Weed Management Area on a grant for noxious weed treatment in the Izee area, and partnered with eight entities on an OSBA grant to treat noxious weeds in Wheeler, Jefferson, and Crook counties. Plans are to have Grant Weed Control take care of the Wheeler County portion. Matt stated he expects to treat the Wheeler County road right of ways. He has been working with the Malheur National Forest to prioritize noxious weed treatment areas for 2018. The No Spray Notice has been advertised in the Blue Mt. Eagle for several weeks. The deadline to notify Grant Weed Control is February 2, 2018. Matt has been training Shane on the spray equipment. Matt will attend the Oregon State Weed Board meeting on February 16 and 17th as well as an OVMA meeting.
27. District Programs – Jason showed the presentation the District recently gave to the County Court regarding the District's activities. The staff has been working with Lorraine to coordinate the RCPP outreach. The engineering staff has been contacted by the Malheur Forest regarding the possibility of the District doing the construction management on a project to install two bottomless culverts.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

28. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of December 2017 and January 2018 were reviewed.
29. Approve Bills – Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of December 2017 and January 2018. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.


Board Chair

3-1-18
Date


District Manager

3/1/18
Date