



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
August 1st, 2019 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair – Director
Pat Voigt - Director
Rick Henslee - Director
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

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

Staff:

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

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – District Conservationist
Greg Kuehl – John Day/Umatilla Basin Acting Team Leader

Hannah Latzo - South Fork Watershed Council

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – PatVoigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes - **Roger moved to approve the June 6th, 26th, and July 2nd 2019 meeting minutes. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Aaron introduced Greg Kuehl who is filling in for Jay Gibbs as the John Day/Umatilla Basin Acting Team Leader.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Greg introduced Aaron Roth as the new District Conservationist for the John Day office. He stated he is looking forward to working with Aaron and hopes to continue the partnership NRCS has developed with Grant SWCD. In Aaron's former position he worked with nine counties in the John Day/Umatilla Basin, and now will be able to focus only on Grant County. Pat Voigt expressed that he is looking forward to working with Aaron. Aaron stated he wants to continue to build the relationships Lorraine began. The John Day office has finalized the 2019 EQIP contracts. The 2020 applications will be taken this fall. Aaron stated he is looking forward to working with Kyle in his new position as District Manager.
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 –A representative was unable 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 – Hannah reported staff is continuing work on the Bark Project area surveys. The Malheur Forest's, Murderers Creek wild horse management plan was released for a 30 day public comment period on July 17th. The rapid revegetation project implemented on the IZ ranch has been completed. The Council will be submitting an OWEB capacity grant for next two years.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. District Manager Transition – Jason reviewed with the Directors the Board Resolution transferring District Manager duties and responsibilities from Jason Kehrberg to Kyle Sullivan, effective August 1, 2019. **Roger moved to approve the Board Resolution. Joanne gave the second with motion passing unanimously.** The Directors reviewed the Conservation Technician Part-Time Position Description and the updated employment agreement with Jason Kehrberg. Also reviewed was the proposal to compensate Jason for the difference in value of his accrued vacation hours. **Phil moved to approve the Conservation Technician Part-Time Position Description and the updated employment agreement between Jason Kehrberg and Grant SWCD as well as the accrued vacation hour value adjustment. Joanne gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**

The Directors reviewed the updated employment agreement with Kyle Sullivan as District Manager. Jason stated that for salary equity, the new District Manager starting wage will need to be adjusted as the District engineer recently received a pay upgrade upon receiving a Certified Water Rights Examiner certification. **Phil moved to approve the employment agreement between Grant SWCD and Kyle Sullivan. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously. Roger moved to set the Grant SWCD District Manager salary at \$64,500. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

22. Other - Pat Voigt stated the Directors would like to recognize Jason's 12 years of service as District Manager, August 21st at 4:00pm at the Outpost Restaurant. This was overwhelmingly approved by consensus by the Directors.
23. Other –
24. Other –

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt stated the weed crew is very busy. Treatment will begin next week on Yellow starthistle through the 25% Cost-Share Program. This fall treatment will commence again on the remaining applications submitted through the 50% Cost-Share Program. Treatment is nearing completion, with the exception of Yellow Flag Iris, on the ODA Top Five Priority Weed Grant. Yellow Flag Iris treatment will begin after October 1st, the end of irrigation season. Treatment for BLM will continue the remainder of the summer and through fall. Biological control agents were released for the treatment of Russian knapweed. Matt also released 240,000 beetles to accomplish biological control on Leafy spurge in Fox Valley. Matt showed photos of a site where biological control for Leafy Spurge was very successful. Matt has been working with Joel Price, Biological Control Entomologist, with OR Dept. Agriculture on the bio-control releases.

Interviews to fill the Noxious Weed Control Program Conservation Technician recently were conducted with Nate Hughes being selected. Nate will begin work on August 19th. He has had experience with herbicide spraying and had an applicator license in the past. Nate will be replacing Shane Koppel.

Matt reported OR Dept. Fish & Wildlife recently loaned the District an air spreader cart (Valmar 245 Spreader) to be utilized by the District and rented to landowners for applying a granular formulation of imazapic herbicide (Open Range G) to control winter annual grasses.

26. District Programs – Jason reported he has been working on the District's leadership transition. The District, through a contract with the Malheur Forest, designed a culvert replacement in Summit Creek. ODFW is implementing the installation which is 75% complete. There are currently three fence projects being constructed. The Directors and staff discussed the difficulty with the water right transfer process and the unforeseen requirements that can be attached to a transfer. Discussion was also held on the never ending permitting challenges. Jason and Kyle are putting together an OWEB grant application that will cost-share with the RCPP agreement. Jason plans to continue work on a water optimization grant application to be submitted in October. Jason was recently interviewed by Wahoo Films, hired by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation to complete a short video highlighting the Tribal conservation work occurring along Fox Creek. Kyle thanked Jason and Pat Voigt for their helpfulness with the District Manager transition. He is excited to be in the new position.


FINANCIAL BUSINESS

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

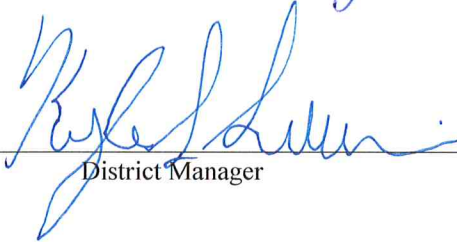
The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.



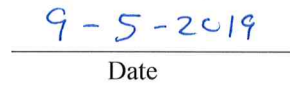
Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date