



Grant Soil and Water Conservation District
Kenneth H. Delano Agricultural Service Center
721 S. Canyon Blvd. - John Day, OR 97845 - Phone (541) 575-0135

MINUTES OF GRANT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
March 3rd, 2022 MEETING

Directors Attending:

Phil St. Clair – Director
Pat Voigt – Director
Joanne Keerins – Director

Staff Attending:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Shannon Bruebaker – Farm Service Agency
Mark Porter – OR Dept. Agriculture

Attendance

Roger Ediger - Director
Rick Henslee - Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager

Emma Gabriel – Farm Service Agency
John Morris
Brandon Ferguson – OR Dept. Forestry

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Phil moved to approve the February 3rd, 2022 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Kyle introduced Brandon Ferguson, OR Dept. Forestry, Community Wildfire Forester, and Mark Porter, OR Dept. Agriculture, NE OR IWM Coordinator. Also introduced was John Morris, past Grant SWCD Director and Emma Gabriel, Farm Service Agency.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron handed out the March 3rd Oregon Drought Monitor map showing Grant County in the D4 category. The Local Work Group meeting was held February 16th with approximately 39 people attending. The deadline to apply for the CSP Classic program is March 18th. Aaron stated the John Day NRCS staff is working with the District to sponsor the Grant County Natural Resources Fair to be held April 12, from 9:00 to 3:00 at the Grant County Fairgrounds. The Resource Fair will feature multiple speakers and informational booths including; OR Trail Electric, OR Dept. Fish & Wildlife, OR State University, Grant SWCD, Grant Weed Control, Irene Jerome of the Firewise Program, OR Dept. Agriculture, Farm Service Agency and many more. The Fair will provide information to new and existing producers and landowners in Grant County. Lunch will be available for those attending.

FSA – Emma Gabriel, Harney/Grant Farm Service Agency County Executive Director – Emma stated the office is completing payments for the 2021 Livestock Forage Program (LFP). Grant County is still in a D4 drought designation and due to this, it looks like the County will probably qualify for the 2022 LFP. There is financial assistance for producers who hauled feed or water in 2021 due to drought conditions. Call the FSA office with miles hauled for feed and gallons of water hauled. A new program to assist livestock producers is expected in 2022. The program will provide payments based on the producer's livestock numbers on the 2021 LFP application.

South Fork Council – Joanne stated the staff is making plans for upcoming summer projects.

OR Dept. Forestry – Brandon stated he is the Community Wildfire Forester for the OR Dept. Forestry John Day office. His background is in fire behavior. Recently he has been working with NRCS assisting with their forestry programs as well as with Irene Jerome and the Firewise program. Brandon said he has submitted multiple grants to provide assistance to landowners to treat home ignition zones for fire protection. He is looking forward to building partnerships to support private landowners in controlling fuels in areas around their homes. The John Day OR Dept. Forestry office will be open to the public on May 1st. Kyle said Brandon provided valuable technical assistance to the District in obtaining OR Dept. Forestry funding for landowners.

ODA - Mark Porter said he has been with OR Dept. Agriculture working in the noxious weed area since 2014. In 2020 ODA assigned him and multiple other employees to work with hemp inspections. He is now very glad to be back working with the noxious weed program. He does not get to Grant County very often as Matt does an excellent job. Grant Weed Control has a model noxious weed program. OR Dept. Agriculture is the lead entity for noxious weeds in the State, currently with nine employees in the noxious weed program, and distributes approximately \$3,000,000 a biennium in grants to accomplish noxious weed control. Recently ODA has been able to assist with biological control agents for Japanese knotweed, Common toadflax, and Canada thistle rust. Discussion followed on biological control of Whitetop.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

6. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported right of way treatment has been completed on 100 miles of county roads. The Annual Grass Cost-Share program is currently being advertised in the Blue Mt. Eagle. Applications will be accepted until March 11, on a first come, first serve basis. Matt has been working with Bayer and the District on how to best use Rangeview, Bayer's computer based annual grass locator, in conjunction with the ODF funded Upper John Day Valley Landscape Resiliency Project. The OR State Weed Board awarded Grant Weed Control the Grant County Top 5 Priority Weeds Phase IV grant, which will provide \$34,000 to treat Squarrose knapweed, Plumeless thistle, Rush Skeletonweed, Perennial Pepperweed and Yellow flag iris. Matt reported Sweetbriar Rose was recently added to Oregon's State Noxious Weed list.
7. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the Project Status Report included in the board packet. Staff are working on future project designs. The ODF Upper John Day Valley Landscape Resiliency Project Agreement was signed today. The Request For Proposals will soon be out for the aerial herbicide application. The District is working with representatives of Bayer and OR State University in the development of Storymap, a component of the Landscape Resiliency Project (LRP). Bayer will supply a camera crew to conduct interviews in Grant County regarding the treatments; OSU will use this media as well as other sources to develop Storymap. Storymap, a living map, will provide a brief history of events which led to the LRP and highlight the partners and fine fuels treatments. Kyle reported he recently submitted a grant to FEMA that will fit well with the Upper John Day Aquifer Storage and Recovery Feasibility Study.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

8. All Staff/District Board Work Session – Kyle thanked all who attended the Work Session. He asked the Directors for input on prioritizing the Project Types table. Pat V. stated he felt outreach to landowners is very important and that the District should receive input from the Resource Fair on April 12th. The Directors agreed that the District should take advantage of opportunities when they are presented. The Directors agreed by consensus to expend funding on legal and accounting professionals when needed.
9. Hwy 395 Sidewalk Project Update – Kyle provided an update on the Highway 395 ODOT sidewalk project.
10. Discussion on Projects and Water Rights - Kyle asked the Directors for direction, in several specific scenarios, on how to proceed when addressing resource concerns and the associated water rights. The Directors stated they wanted Kyle to rely on his best judgement while giving the landowner's input merit.
11. Associate Board Members Recruitment – Kyle stated he felt the District should begin to recruit additional associate members. He has talked to Alec Oliver and Irene Jerome regarding serving as Associate Directors and would like to invite them to a District board meeting. Ted agreed it was time to recruit new associate members. Kyle said he will compile a list of future associate member candidates for the Directors review.
12. Other – Shannon Brubaker stated OR Dept. Agriculture, through Senate Bill 5561, has available one-time funding to support a grasshopper and Mormon cricket control and suppression cost-sharing program in 2022. For more information contact the ODA Insect Pest Prevention Program.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

13. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of February 2022 were reviewed.
13. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of February 2022. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.


Board Chair


District Manager

4-7-22
Date

4-7-2022
Date