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**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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 MEETING**

**Attendance**

**Directors:**

Phil St. Clair - Director  
Roger Ediger – Director  
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Joanne Keerins – Director  
Pat Voigt - Director

**Staff:**

Jason Kehrberg – District Manager  
Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator  
Cole Winegar – Engineering Technician

**Visitors:**

Lorraine Vogt – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council

Irene Jerome – Jerome Natural Resource Consultants

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Roger Ediger called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Roger Ediger was designated to swear in the Directors elected in the November 2016 general election. Roger Ediger gave the Oath of office to Phil St. Clair and Pat Voigt.

Jason introduced Cole Winegar, who began working at the District in December 2016. Cole stated he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the Oregon Institute of Technology located in Klamath Falls. His previous position was the Assistant Region Engineer with the Boise Cascade Western Region in Medford, Oregon. He currently holds an Engineer in Training license and plans to take the Professional Engineer exam in April 2017. The Directors all introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes - Roger moved to approve the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors in attendance.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Lorraine reported the 2017 Local Work Group meeting was held January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Local Work Group provides a forum for NRCS to work with its partners and customers to develop a strategic plan to utilize limited resources. The deadline for signups for the 2017 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lorraine has been working with the District on its Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) contract. The two new positions for the John Day field office have been held up due to the freeze on hiring federal workers.
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 – Amy reported the staff has been completing reporting requirements and securing permits as well as submitting grant applications to private foundations for future projects.
19. Monument SWCD – Bryan was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

21. New Directors – As reported in item #1 above, Roger Ediger gave the Oath of Office to Phil St. Clair and Pat Voigt. Rick Henslee was also reelected in November. He will be sworn in at the next meeting he attends. **Joanne moved to nominate Pat as Chairman, Phil as Vice-Chair, and Roger as Treasurer. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously. Roger moved to reappoint Ted Clausen, Nick Stiner, and Kristy St. Clair as Associate Directors for a one year term. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
22. Annual Meeting - Jason asked the Directors if they were interested in providing the “Farm Succession, Land Access, and Changes in Land Use” presentation as a primary component of the District’s 2017 Annual Meeting. The Directors felt the presentation would be beneficial to landowners and were very supportive. The consensus was to hold the meeting in April.
23. New District Web Site – Jason provided a brief overview of the District’s new website, located at [www.grantswcd.net](http://www.grantswcd.net). The website will give the District the opportunity to post contract documents as well as project information. Tereasa Perkins did a great job putting the website together.
24. Revised – Sick Leave Policy – Jason stated the updated Sick Leave policy adds bereavement as an eligible use of an employee’s sick leave. **Phil moved to approve the updated Sick Leave Policy to include the bereavement language. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

Irene Jerome gave a presentation titled “Ponderosa Pine – The Restoration Dilemma”. The presentation provided information on the forest products industry in the west focusing on the following points; consistent stable sources of raw materials, large amounts of low value material, changes in demographics in rural areas, cultural shifts and global markets. After the presentation Irene answered questions from the Directors.

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

25. Weed Control – Matt reported he taught a class at Humbolt Elementary for the Farm to School program, sponsored by the South Fork Watershed Council. The class taught the importance of noxious weed control, their economic impact as well as the different characteristics of weeds. Matt attended a BLM meeting in Prineville to review new herbicides available for use on BLM property. He will also be attending the Oregon State Weed Board meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Matt and Tereasa have been updating spray reports and computer programs in order to make the paperwork flow smoother as well as researching new herbicides for annual grass control and bare ground application. Matt reported he had received an e-mail from Ann Kennedy stating the bacteria that inhibits Cheatgrass, Medusahead, and Jointed Goatgrass is currently in the registering process and is expected to be on the market in 2018. Matt will be testifying to the Joint Ways and Means Committee at a Town Hall meeting to be held in Hermiston in support of House Bill 2043 which will appropriate \$1,000,000 to the Oregon Department of Agriculture for the purpose of carrying out weed control programs.
26. CTWSR of OR/BPA Project Summary – The Project Summary was sent to the Directors in their packet and is

attached to the official copy of the minutes. Jason reported work is continuing on the Larson and McHaley projects. The staff has been busy with office work. Jason stated he was recently informed by the CTWSR that there will be no funding cycle in 2017 which will make a funding void for 2018. The Directors discussed the RCPP grant and future plans to advertise the program.

27. ODFW Contract Projects – The summary of the ODFW Contract Projects was sent to the Directors in their packet and is attached to the official copy of the minutes. Currently, construction is being done on one fence project.
28. OWEB Grants – The status of the OWEB grants is in the Project Summary.
29. Title II Program – The status of the Title II program is in the Project Summary. The District is working with the Malheur Forest to obtain agreements for the four Title II projects approved in July 2016.

#### FINANCIAL BUSINESS

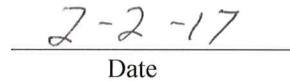
30. Audit – The District received the final 2015-16 audit from Oster Professional Group on January 30<sup>th</sup>.
31. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of December 2016 and January 2017 were reviewed.
32. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of December 2016 and January 2017. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

Discussion was held on the ongoing Biennial Review of the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan.

Jason informed the Directors OR Department of Agriculture will be holding a Staff and Director Training Session on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 – 2:00 in Burns.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

  
Board Chair

  
Date

  
District Manager

  
Date