



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
September 4, 2025 Meeting

Attendance

Directors Attending:

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

Phil St. Clair – Director
Pat Voigt – Chairman
Jarred Livingston – Associate Director

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager
Matt Wenick – Grant Weed Control
Danielle Kimball

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Tereasa Perkins – CREP Technician

Visitors:

Jennifer Bush – Malheur Forest
Didgette McCracken

Kailey Heiple – Farm Service Agency
Tom Straughan – OR Association of Conservation Districts

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 July 3, 2025, meeting minutes. Roger gave the second. Roger Ediger, Phil St. Clair, Pat Voigt and Joanne Keerins voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors to introduce.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

Kyle introduced Danielle Kimball, the new Program Assistant. All attending introduced themselves.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – A representative was unable to attend.
6. FSA – Kailey reported Grant County qualified for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (FLP) in 2025 as the county experienced a D2 drought rating for 8 consecutive weeks. The program offers financial assistance to help livestock producers recover from significant forage losses. Kailey stated she will return to work full time next week. Producers who experienced revenue, quality or production losses due to qualifying disaster events in 2023 and 2024 can participate in the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP). Stage 1 applications have been sent to qualifying producers. The enrollment period for Stage 2 is scheduled to begin in October 2025.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Joanne reported the Watershed Council recently moved its office location to 353 Patterson Bridge Road. The Council is accepting RCPP round 2 signups. It has taken quite a bit of time getting the agreements put together and staff is now moving forward enrolling landowners. The Council

secured just over three million dollars to implement upland practices for the entire South Fork John Day as well as Picture Gorge to Mt. Vernon. Work is continuing on the Utley roadless area categorical exclusion and private land forest treatments bordering the roadless area. A field trip highlighting the work will be held soon.

8. Malheur Forest – Jennifer Bush reported the Forest is busy with fire season and a new fire recently started near Dixie Mountain. At this time the status of the Forest Service reorganization; as well as funding is up in the air. Currently there are a lot of unknowns for Malheur Forest staff.
9. ODA – A representative was unable to attend.
10. OR State Forestry – A representative was unable to attend.
11. OR Dept. Environmental Quality – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

12. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported treatments on fire affected areas on the Malheur Forest began in August. Treatments have been completed on the Poison, Parasol, Falls, Sands and Rail Ridge fires. All BAER funding for fire treatments has been completed. Grant Weed Control entered into an agreement with BLM to provide \$48,000 in funding for noxious weed treatments on the Rail Ridge and Battle Mt. Complex fires. Tereasa has completed contracts with participating landowners for 2025 annual grass treatment. Treatments are scheduled to begin September 7th on approximately 19,000 acres. Matt explained Grant Weed Control is researching the process to purchase an Agri-Spray J 150 drone. The price of the drone and required license is \$54,765, the required insurance is \$5,800 annually and the drone will require the purchase of a new enclosed trailer. The Directors discussed the potential opportunities the drone will offer landowners as Grant Weed Control will be able to apply noxious weed treatments or seed in areas that were not accessible before. The Directors stated they felt purchasing the drone would benefit Grant Weed Control and the District. Matt said it would not be possible to recoup the expense of purchasing the drone in one year; it will take several years. **Joanne moved to approve the purchase of the Agri-Spray J 150 drone and necessary components. Phil gave the second. Roger Ediger, Phil St. Clair, Pat Voigt and Joanne Keerins voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**
13. District Programs – The Program Status Report was included in the Directors meeting packet. Kyle encouraged the Directors to contact him if they had any questions. The OR State Fire Marshall grant originally included funding for items that are now not needed. This has provided additional funding to be moved to the District for staff time, juniper removal and seeding. The South Fork Long Creek Fence project was put out for bid with Timber Basin Contractors receiving the contract. Progress is continuing on the Black Butte fence. The District received additional funding from the Forest Service for the fence. Kyle, Phil, Mark Webb and Brent Smith met with DEQ staff to discuss the TMDL modeling. DEQ staff explained the reasons for having to redo the analysis as well as their new approach. The DEQ staff seemed open to sharing the modeling results with partners to inform about areas of interest. Staff will be meeting with BOR representatives to review results from the Airborne Electromagnetic survey. Kyle stated he has been pondering the best way to make the information available to the public. He believes the information will be beneficial to landowners for many years.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

14. Drone Program – Tereasa gave a presentation on drone aerial imagery. The process begins with taking drone images on site and then compiling the information at the office. Tereasa showed examples of maxim pixels the drone can provide, using images taken several years ago. Examples of annual grass monitoring using drone imagery was provided. Kyle stated there are many ways drone footage can be utilized for District projects.
15. Berry Creek Irrigation Consolidation Project – Kyle reported the Berry Creek Irrigation Consolidation Project was installed in 2016. From the beginning, it was a complicated project designed to utilize water from Berry and Canyon Creek. Soon after the project was installed problems began to appear. Over time the risers have begun to fail. The failures are showing the risers were not properly installed. Kyle stated he feels it is time for the District to be involved in the repair of the project. The landowner has replaced 30 of the existing 125 risers. Kyle stated

there are also issues with the pump. The District has engaged a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) pump engineer to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing pump station design. The scope of review includes evaluation of suction and discharge head conditions, verification of pump sizing, assessment of drive system requirements, and confirmation of the maintenance schedule.

- 16. Prescribed Burn Association – Kyle reported the District has become a member of the Southern Blues Prescribed Burn Association. The association is a community-based network of individuals and organizations that cooperate and share resources to implement prescribed fire on non-federal lands.
- 17. Approval of Budget – Pat Holliday presented the District’s 2025-26 Budget. **Roger moved to approve Grant Soil & Water Conservation District’s 2025-26 Budget. Phil gave the second. Roger Ediger, Phil St. Clair, Pat Voigt and Joanne Keerins voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

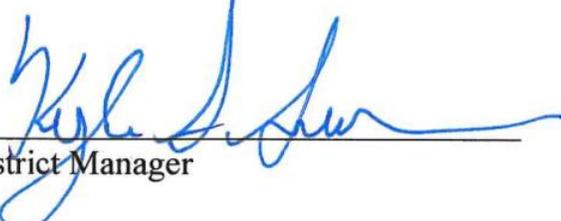
- 18. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of August 2025 were reviewed by the Directors.
- 19. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of August 2025. Joanne gave the second. Phil St. Clair, Roger Ediger, Joanne Keerins and Pat Voigt voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.



Board Chair

10-4-25
Date



District Manager

10/4/2025
Date