



**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**  
**January 8, 2026 Meeting**

**Attendance**

**Directors Attending:**

Phil St. Clair – Director  
Pat Voigt – Chairman  
Rick Henslee – Director

Alec Oliver – Associate Director – Via Phone

Joanne Keerins – Director – Via Phone

**Staff Attending:**

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager  
Danielle Kimball – Program Assistant

**Visitors:**

Didgette McCracken  
Hannah Smith – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner  
Chase Bloom – Malheur Forest Service  
Jason Brandt – Malheur Forest Service  
Amy Stiner – South Fork John Day Watershed Council  
Brandon Ferguson – Oregon Department 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 December 4, 2025, meeting minutes. Rick gave the second. Phil St. Clair, Pat Voigt, Rick Henslee, and Joanne Keerins voted in favor. No opposing votes. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors to introduce.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Hannah reported that the application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>. NRCS is currently undergoing an internal overhaul; details are not yet available. No implementation strategies will be issued this year. The agency is considering RCPP opportunities for the fall.
6. FSA – A representative was unable to attend.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Amy reported that they are preparing another round of OWEB grants. The upcoming meeting on Monday will include a major discussion on predators and mule deer population concerns.

8. Malheur Forest – Chase reported that there is currently no appropriation bill for the Forest Service. CRLP funding remains flat and is not tied to a bill. Staff are working with Cameron Scott on proposals in the Prairie City area.
9. ODA – A representative was unable to attend.
10. OR State Forestry – Brandon reported that December marked the close of the notification-of-operations period. The department is hiring two new positions, one in John Day and one in Fossil. Two grants remain active, including the Upper John Day Community Assistance grant.
11. OR Dept. Environmental Quality – A representative was unable to attend.
12. John Rowell County Commissioner – John reported that the Forestland Classification Committee has been selected: Pat Holliday, Jack Southworth, Derrick Greenwood, and Irene Jerome as a float member.

**DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

13. Grant Weed Control – Kyle reported that seeding projects are being scheduled, with helicopter work anticipated within the next month or two. The new spray drone has arrived, and Nate is completing licensing requirements. Insurance requirements are also being addressed. Public interest in the drone service is growing. Matt and Nate are exploring options for a trailer and storage container to support drone operations and transportation. The goal is to have the drone operational by spring.
14. District Programs – Kyle reported that Kaylie with FSA has submitted her notice. She will remain until early February. FSA’s long-term staffing plan for the office is unknown. The Districts field service work continues as usual.


**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

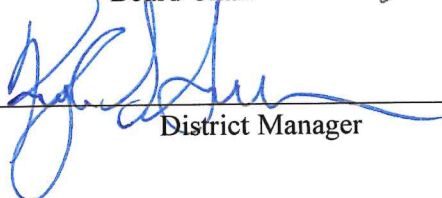
15. Audit Review – Kyle reported that the District received a clean single audit for 2024–2025, and that all findings and questioned costs related to federal awards from the 2023–2024 audit have been resolved. The District did have two noted deficiencies: Segregation of Duties and the use of Multiple General Ledgers. The financial reports also show a significant increase in services and materials, primarily due to aerial spraying activities.
16. Date for District Work Session – Kyle would like to schedule a district work session, noting that one has not been held in a couple years. The proposed date is February 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

17. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of December 2025 were reviewed by the Directors.
18. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of December 2025. Rick gave the second. Phil St. Clair, Pat Voigt, Rick Henslee, and Joanne Keerins voted yes. No opposing votes. The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:14

  
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 Board Chair

  
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 District Manager

2-5-26  
 Date

2/5/2026  
 Date