



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
February 6, 2025 Meeting

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Roger Ediger – Director
Pat Voigt - Chairman
Rick Henslee – Director

Phil St. Clair – via telephone
Joanne Keerins – Director – via telephone
Jared Livingston – Associate Director

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Hannah Smith – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Chase Blume – Malheur National Forest
Jennifer Bush - Malheur National Forest
John Morris

Amy Stiner – South Fork JD Watershed Council
Kailey Heiple – Farm Service Agency
John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner
Brandon Ferguson – OR Dept. Forestry

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Oath of Office – Rick Henslee, Pat Voigt and Phil St. Clair each took the Oath of Office as Grant Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. Each were elected in the November 2024 general election.

2. Approval of Minutes – **Joanne moved to approve the December 5, 2024, meeting minutes. Roger gave the second. Joanne Keerins, Roger Ediger, Pat Voigt, Rick Henslee and Phil St. Clair voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Chase Blume introduced Jennifer Bush, Partnership Coordinator for the Malheur Forest.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Hannah stated the Local Work Group Meeting would be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Oregon Department of Forestry meeting room. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application ranking deadline is February 28th. All EQIP funding will be allocated to fire recovery, seeding, herbicide treatment and deferred grazing. Currently the Inflation Reduction Act funding is on hold.
6. FSA – Kailey reported Sara Ugalde is the new County Executive Director for Grant and Harney Counties. Applications are being accepted until March 3, 2025 for the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program, the Livestock Forage Program and the Livestock Indemnity Program to assist producers with losses due to wildfires. Acreage reports are due March 15th. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program has partnered with OR Department of Forestry for private lands affected by wildfire. John Rowell reported he has been communicating with Mark Owens regarding contributions Oregon can make to restore fire damaged land.

7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Amy reported the Council recently received a RCPP grant for 3.4 million to be used for upland restoration. They are working with Matt on several aerial seeding projects.
7. Malheur Forest – Chase stated Zane Murray has been hired as the new Malheur Forest District Ranger. He reported that the wild horse gather in the Murderers Creek Joint Management Area has resulted in 350 horses gathered. Approval has been received to gather an additional 60. Title II applications will be taken until February 28, 2025. The Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee is seeking new members.
9. ODA – A representative was unable to attend.
10. OR State Forestry - Brandon Ferguson provided an update on recent staff changes. He reported 2024 was a year of extreme fire issues. OR Dept. Forestry is partnering with NRCS to provide support for landowners affected by the 2024 wildfires.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

11. Grant Weed Control – In Matt’s absence Kyle reviewed his written report. Matt is working with landowners to accomplish aerial seeding on lands affected by recent wildfires. Nate and Matt installed tracks on an UTV to use to seed small areas where application by helicopter is not feasible. It will also be used to seed skid trails on the Malheur Forest. Matt is scheduled to speak at the Society Range Management in Spokane and will make a presentation in Jordan Valley on annual grass control.
12. District Programs – The Program Status Report was sent out in the Directors meeting packet. Kyle encouraged the Directors to contact him if they had any questions. He reported he hopes to have the information on the Airborne Survey in March. Invitations to Bid have been sent out for juniper removal around John Day, Canyon City, Prairie City, Mt. Vernon, Dayville and Monument. Bids for fence materials have also been sent out. The District plans to begin precommercial thinning on private lands under the CWDG grant. Kyle reported he doesn’t expect any issues with the federal agreements the District has.


DISTRICT BUSINESS

13. Appointment of Board Officers - Rick nominated Pat Voigt as Chairman, Phil St. Clair as Vice-Chair and Roger Ediger as Treasurer. Joanne gave the second. Rick Henslee, Phil St. Clair, Roger Ediger, Joanne Keerins, and Pat Voigt voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.
14. Resolution to hold 2025 Annual Meeting on April 3, 2025 - Rick moved to pass a Resolution for Grant SWCD to hold its 2025 Annual Meeting on April 3, 2025. Roger gave the second. Rick Henslee, Phil St. Clair, Roger Ediger, Joanne Keerins, and Pat Voigt voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.
15. Other – Pat Holliday stated the District is required to submit a Corrective Action Plan in response to deficiencies reported in the audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. She reviewed the Action Plan with the Directors. **Roger moved to approve the Corrective Action Plan for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Rick gave the second. Rick Henslee, Phil St. Clair, Roger Ediger, Joanne Keerins, and Pat Voigt voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

16. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of December 2024 and January 2025 were reviewed.
17. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of December 2024 and January 2025. Phil gave the second. Rick Henslee, 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 5:20 pm.



Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date