



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
May 4th, 2017 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair - Director
Roger Ediger – Director
Rick Henslee – Director

Joanne Keerins – Director
Pat Voigt - Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Staff:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Grant Weed Control

Levi Voigt – Staff Engineer

Visitors:

Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes - **Roger moved to approve the March 2nd, 2017 meeting minutes. Phil 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 is attending the Connect conference and was unable to attend.
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 contractors are back to work on the Juniper thinning. Jeff Neal is working on the Murderers Creek Fish Passage barrier inventory. The Council has begun the Rapid

Riparian Revegetation in the Upper South Fork by gathering material to propagate 33,000 willows and spraying the reed canary grass. Beaver dam analogues will be installed this fall. Amy and Matt Wenick met with landowners interested in signing up for several different cooperative noxious weed programs the Council has available. The Juvenile Chinook research is starting up, and the Council has extra funding through OR State University (OSU) to hire a high school student for the summer. Amy has contacted the local schools regarding students who may be interested. Elise's last Farm to School field trip will be Friday May 12th to the Southworth Brother's Ranch. The Council is working with OSU to offer a Master Woodland Series of educational workshops in the fall. The Council was awarded an OWEB Technical Assistance grant to re-vamp the Lower South Fork Coordinated Resource Management Planning group. The Council has begun the process to obtain 501(c)3 tax-exempt status.

19. Monument SWCD – Bryan was unable to attend.

20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Memorandum of Understanding – Blue Mt. Land Trust – **Joanne moved to table the discussion and decision regarding participation in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Blue Mt. Land Trust until Jason could participate. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.** The Directors all agreed they needed additional information to reach a decision.

22. HB 3249-Support Letter – The Directors reviewed the letter in support of HB 3249 that is being proposed to send to the Editor of the Blue Mt. Eagle. Rick stated he is not a fan of conservation easements. He feels livestock agriculture is under assault from the State of Oregon and is concerned about obligating future generations to the whims of the Oregon legislature. The Directors discussed the pros and cons of conservation easements. **Phil moved to send the letter in support of HB 3249 to the Editor of the Blue Mt. Eagle. Roger gave the 2nd with Phil, Roger, Pat and Joanne voting in favor with Rick voting in opposition.**

23. Other – Pat H. presented a public document request from Judy Kerr for financial documents of Blue Mt. Forest Partners held by the District. Pat also shared a letter from Blue Mt. Forest Partners stating reasons they felt the documents were not public record. Discussion was held on the issue of whether the documents were “public records”. The Directors stated the District had a legal obligation to follow the laws regarding public records as well as to follow the District’s Public Records Policy. **Rick moved to direct District staff to contact the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and request a legal opinion clarifying if Blue Mt. Forest Partners financial information held by the District meets the legal definition of “public records”. Roger gave the 2nd with the motion passing unanimously.**

24. Other –

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt reported the Weed Department has been busy. Colby is back and Skip and Ty will be starting next week. He and Tereasa set out a test plot on the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area to control Medusahead using a new herbicide, Lambient. Matt gave a short review of the history of the bacteria being studied to control annual grasses. The Directors had several questions for Matt regarding the control of annual grasses. Grant Weed Control has completed approximately 75% of the roadside treatment of county roads and is 100% done with all bareground treatment of county rock pits. Grant Weed Control has completed bare ground treatment on 50% of the ODOT rock pits. Matt stated he will begin the roadside treatment on the approximately 400 miles of Wheeler County roads soon.

Matt stated he has been dealing with an issue with a landowner for several months. He asked the Directors about the possibility of sending a letter stating the District would no longer enter into agreements with the landowner due to the landowner’s lack of cooperation. The Directors stated they would like to table discussion and action on this item until research has been completed on the legality of the issue. They also stated the District should have a policy that would direct actions in this type of situation.

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. Levi gave a status report on the District’s projects. The McHaley Pipeline project is complete. An issue with pipe floating was corrected. Levi stated he hopes to be able to start up the pump station on the Larson project by the end of next week. Additional work will be done during the

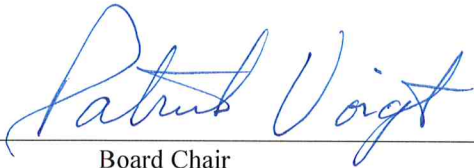
instream work window. The staff is continuing survey and design work on Fox Creek. The 2016 Alder Creek Project is located on BLM and is an extension of a previous project. It will be installed in the instream work period, September 1 to October 1. The District received three OWEB grants to install stockwater systems in the Ritter area. Plans are being made to address maintenance issues on several past projects the District has installed. Funding for the work is coming from a Title II grant with work beginning this summer. The District submitted an OWEB grant in April to address legacy gold mining conditions along Big Creek, a tributary of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River.

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.
28. OWEB Grants – The status of the OWEB grants is in the Project Summary. The District submitted an OWEB grant in April to address two diversions on the John Day River for construction in 2018.
29. Title II Program – The status of the Title II program is in the Project Summary.

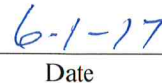
FINANCIAL BUSINESS

30. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of March and April 2017 were reviewed.
31. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of March and April 2017. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.



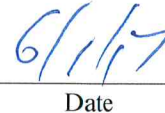
Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date