



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
December 5th, 2019 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

Pat Voigt
Joanne Keerins
Rick Henslee

Phil St. Clair
Roger Ediger
Nick Stiner

Staff:

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Amy Stiner – Upper 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 November 7th, 2019 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors –There were no visitors in attendance that needed an introduction.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS –Aaron reported NRCS has not set a budget or application deadlines for the 2020 programs. Aaron shared information on Weed-Suppressive Bacteria to control cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses. Unfortunately, results of field experiments do not look promising for the use of this product as a tool for controlling cheatgrass. Discussion followed on various potential treatments for annual grasses.
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 things are going well with the Council.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. ODA SIA Update – Kyle stated Brenda Sanchez, Water Quality Policy Specialist for OR Department of Agriculture has agreed to attend a District meeting in January or February to provide information and clarification on Strategic Implementation Areas. Her supervisor will also be attending. Kyle asked the Directors who they would like to be invited to attend the meeting. Roger stated he would like to send an invitation to the Grant County Stockgrowers and Farm Bureau members. Rick stated he felt Senate Bill 1010 has gone through a predictable process in the last 20 years, changing into something it was not intended to be. He believes Strategic Implementation Areas do not reflect the original intent of the Ag Water Quality process and that implementation is not being done by the legislature but by the agencies with no oversight and control. The Directors discussed the Ag Water Quality and Strategic Implementation process past, present and future. Kyle stated he believes the District's role in representing Grant County landowners is very important. The Directors asked Kyle to research the Ag Water Quality laws and put together a District position paper for the Directors review. Discussion was held on incorporating the meeting with Brenda Sanchez into the District's Annual meeting in February or March.
22. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Pat stated the Executive Session would be moved after Item 28.
23. Other – Kyle stated he will be starting the process to advertise for a Conservation Technician. This will be to replace his former position. The position will fill many duties; including a conservation technician, grant writer, as well as oversee construction activities.
24. Other – Kyle informed the Directors a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, regarding the Larson water right cancellation issue will be held January 27, 28, 29, 2020. No subpoenas have been issued to District staff, but are expected.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt reporting the staff is working on tying up loose ends for the 2019 spray season. Treatment has been completed for all ODA grants and both Title II grants. Matt has been working on the 2020 Grant County Top 5 Priority Weeds grant application, due December 15th. Pat V. stated Matt is doing a great job with the Weed Department.
26. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors. He reported he has been contacted by the Blue Mt. Land Trust regarding a potential partnership with conservation easements. Kyle said he will provide additional information in the future.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of November 2019 were reviewed.
28. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of November 2019. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

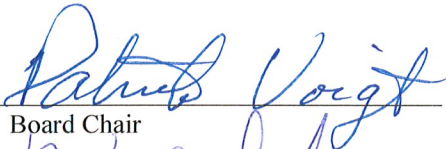
Pat V. announced the meeting would take a 5 minute break and begin again at 5:45pm.

At 5:45 pm Pat Voigt stated the meeting would go into Executive Session, under ORS 192.660(2)(i).

Pat Voigt declared the meeting back in open session at 6:45pm.

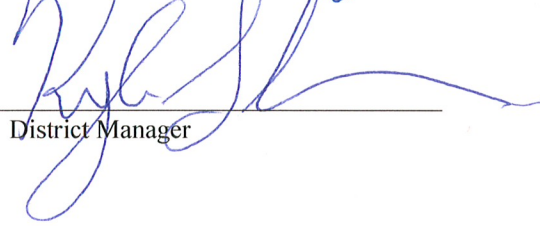
Phil moved to approve the 2020 wage adjustments as presented by the District Manager as well as a 10% 2019 Incentive payment for all District employees. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.


Board Chair

1-2-20

Date


District Manager

1-3-2020

Date