



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
January 7, 2021 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Pat Voigt - Director
Phil St. Clair – Director – via telephone
Rick Henslee – Director

Roger Ediger – Director
Joanne Keerins – Director – Via telephone

Staff Attending:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Via telephone

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Roger Ediger called the meeting to order.
2. Oath of Office for newly elected Directors – Rick Henslee – Zone 2 Position, Pat Voigt – Zone 3 Position, and Phil St. Clair – At Large 1 Position, were individually sworn in and each took the Oath of Office.
3. Officer Elections & Associate Director Appointments – **Joanne nominated Pat Voigt as Grant Soil & Water Conservation District Chairman. Roger gave the second and the motion passed unanimously. Rick Henslee nominated Phil St. Clair to serve as Grant Soil & Water Conservation District Vice-Chairman. Roger gave the second and the motion passed unanimously. Pat Voigt nominated Roger Ediger as Grant Soil & Water Conservation District Treasurer. Rick gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.** Kyle stated Ted Clausen, Nick Stiner and Kristy St. Clair all expressed an interest in continuing to serve as Associate Directors of Grant Soil & Water Conservation District. **Rick moved to appoint Ted Clausen, Nick Stiner, and Kristy St. Clair as Associate Directors of Grant Soil & Water Conservation District. Joanne gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
4. Approval of Minutes – **Roger moved to approve the December 3rd, 2020 meeting minutes. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
5. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors in attendance.
6. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

7. NRCS – Aaron stated the John Day office is looking forward to the new year with the addition of several staff members. Stephanie Moothart, Soil Conservationist and Tereasa Perkins, Soil Conservationist Technician started Monday. Plans are to hire an additional Soil Conservationist. Aaron hopes the job announcement will come out in the next few weeks. The Local Work Group Meeting will be held virtually in three different listening sessions. The Cropland/Pastureland session will be February 16th from 1:00 to 2:00pm, the Rangeland Session will be February 17th from 1:00 to 2:00pm, and the Forestland Session will be February 18th from 1:00 – 2:00pm. EQIP and RCPP 2021 deadline is April 15th.

FSA – Pat Holliday, Farm Service Committee member, stated the Harney-Grant reconstitution will be effective January 3, 2021. This results in the Oregon FSA Harney County office designated as the Harney-Grant County office servicing Grant County for FSA farm records and administrative functions. Emma Gabriel is the Harney-Grant County Executive Director and will be in the John Day office on Tuesdays until a full-time Program Technician is hired for the John Day office. Interviews were held and the position offered to an applicant in December, however the applicant turned down the position and it is being advertised again.

South Fork Council – Joanne and Phil stated the staff has been working on the OWEB required self-evaluation, current employee evaluations, completing year end reporting requirements and working on the RCPP program.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

8. Weed Control – Matt reported noxious weed treatment was accomplished on the disturbed areas of the four Ricco diversions installed this summer. Treatment will occur again in the spring. The staff has been completing maintenance on all the equipment to ensure it is ready for the spray season. Field supplies have been replenished. Matt has been working with the Wheeler County Road Department regarding application of roadside treatments. Matt stated he has been researching the idea of purchasing a wooden storage shed to put in the parking lot to store herbicides. A storage shed will allow a larger quantity of herbicides to be available at the office location and will reduce trips to the chem shed to replenish stock. He would like to purchase an Old Hickory shed, 12 X 20 ft., and anticipates the price will be approximately \$7,000. **Rick moved to approve the purchase of the storage shed, using Grant Weed Control funds, at an approximate price of \$7,000. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
9. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors. Staff is working on a new contract with Bureau of Reclamation. The original application was submitted in August 2020. It is expected to have the new agreement in February 2021. Cole is working on new Task Orders to accomplish design and engineering on specific projects. Tyler and Kyle met with Oregon Department of Forestry regarding the Blue Mts. Vegetative Health Initiative – Dads Creek Unit, the OWEB grant which will complement the ongoing RCPP program to treat private forest land and juniper infested rangeland. ODF will conduct site visits to determine stocking rates and provide treatment prescriptions to reduce forestry density as well as perform after treatment inspections.

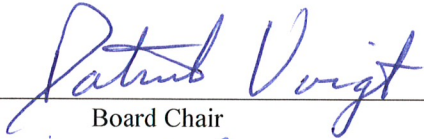
DISTRICT BUSINESS

10. ODA Director Taylor Meeting Update – Kyle reported he has been communicating with Stephanie Page regarding rescheduling the meeting with Director Taylor. He has been told the meeting with the Director is set at one hour followed by an hour demonstration of how remote evaluations are conducted. Director Taylor has read the material the District provided including the interviews Roger held with attendees at the Annual Meeting. Stephanie informed Kyle the Director will review any written material provided prior to the meeting. Originally Kyle was planning on presenting a Power Point presentation highlighting the District's history of conservation work accomplished. He is now planning on providing it prior to the meeting to allow additional time for attendees to speak with Director Taylor. Roger stated he feels it is important for the Director to understand the successful voluntary conservation the District has assisted with in the last 20 years. Kyle will modify the agenda to meet the one-hour limit which will reduce the number of speakers representing the District to two or three.
11. Conservation Easement Update – Kyle reviewed the draft of statements dated 10-21-2020 listing the benefits and disadvantages of three different types of easements; Agricultural, Landowner Driven, and Agency Driven. A major concern he sees is the issue of expenses incurred by the holder of the easement. Most of research he has done shows easements held in perpetuity, but could they be in shorter terms such as 10, 20 or 30 years? Discussion was held on the pros and cons of easements, funding sources and impediments to the process. The Directors stated they did not want this discussion to end and would like to continue to research the issue. The Directors agreed by consensus to have Kyle continue to research and provide information to them on the issue.
12. Approval of District 2019-20 Audit – Pat Holliday reviewed the Management Discussion and Analysis, Net Position at June 30, 2020, Changes in Net Position, and the District's three funds; General, Weed Control, and the Soil and Water Project Fund. **Rick moved to approve Grant Soil & Water Conservation District's 2019-20 Audit. Roger gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
13. Plan of Action Approval – Pat Holliday reviewed the Plan of Action to be submitted to the Audits Division of the Secretary of State. The plan provides an action plan for the Segregation of Duties and Financial Statement Preparation, deficiencies noted in the 2019-20 Audit. **Joanne moved to approve the Plan of Action. Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
14. ORS 297.466 Resolution – The Independent Auditor's Report was reviewed. The report noted a failure to report annually to the OR State Treasurers Office the financial institutions where the District's deposits are maintained. Pat reported that this had been corrected. **Joanne moved to adopt Resolution ORS 297.466, setting forth the proposed plan of action pertaining to deficiencies noted in the annual audit report. Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

15. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of December 2020 were reviewed.
16. Approve Bills – Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of December, 2020. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.



Board Chair

2-4-21

Date



District Manager

2-4-2021

Date