



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
July 1, 2021 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Phil St. Clair – Director
Rick Henslee – Director
Joanne Keerins – Director

Roger Ediger - Director
Pat Voigt – Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Staff Attending:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Emma Gabriel – Harney/Grant County Farm Service Agency

Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council
Randy Williams – Wheeler SWCD District Manager

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Joanne moved to approve the June 3, 2021 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors that required an introduction.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron provided an updated drought monitor for the United States. Information was also provided on the Conservation Incentive Program. The program has a set list of practices by land use; pasture, range and forest. Applications will be taken until July 12th with a second signup period to occur in the fall of 2022. Successful applicants will enter into a five-year contract similar to the Conservation Security Program.

FSA – Emma Gabriel, Harney/Grant Farm Service Agency County Executive Director – Emma stated a County Committee election will be held for the Grant County LA4 position, currently held by Dennis Abraham, with nominations due by August 2nd. Livestock inventory sheets for the Livestock Forage Program have been sent out to producers. Grant County has been in a D3 drought rating for four weeks. This will qualify producers for a four-month payment. Emma stated to have producers contact the office to obtain information on cost-assistance for hauling water. She recommended producers file a Notice of Loss as soon as it is apparent. Signups for the CRP Grasslands program will be taken from July 12 to August 20th. Interested landowners should contact the Burns or John Day FSA office.

South Fork Council – Amy was unable to attend. Joanne stated the staff is working on getting information out to landowners in the Lower South Fork area on the RCPP program. The program will provide financial assistance for private lands to increase beneficial habitat through the removal of Western Juniper, thinning overstocked forests, promoting native and beneficial vegetation, protection of Quaking Aspen and providing off-channel upland water.

Wheeler SWCD – Kyle introduced Randy Williams, the new Wheeler SWCD manager. Randy stated he is excited to be with Wheeler SWCD and looks forward to working with the District.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

6. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported he expects to complete the Squarrose and Plumeless treatments the first week in July. Staff spent 12 – 14 days treating weeds on the John Day River for BLM. Additional river treatment will not be possible as the water level in the river has dropped, however treatment will continue on BLM lands. Matt stated plans are to implement the annual grass treatment the end of July or first part of August. Treatment on Malheur Forest lands has begun and will continue through fall. Matt stated the Weed Department is doing an increasing amount of work with the Malheur Forest. Matt stated he has been approached by

the Forest Service regarding the possibility of sharing some equipment. The idea being discussed at this time is; Grant Weed Control would purchase a UTV (side by side) and the Forest Service would purchase an Intelli-spray unit with boomless sprayers and two hose reels to be installed in the UTV. The UTV would be available for use by Grant Weed Control and the Malheur Forest. Matt explained the benefits of using an UTV for weed control. He stated he would like the Director's input. Discussion followed. **Phil moved to approve the acquisition of an UTV to be used for weed control, with the submittal of a detailed price and if the Malheur Forest funds an Intelli-spray unit. Joanne gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**

7. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the Project Status Report included in the board packet.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

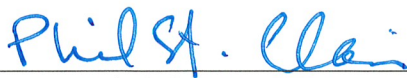
8. Annual Work Plan – Kyle reviewed the 2021 - 2022 Annual Work Plan with the Directors. An Annual Work Plan is required by ODA. **Joanne moved to approve Grant SWCD's 2021-22 Annual Work Plan. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
9. ODA Strategic Implementation Areas – Kyle reported he sent an e-mail to Stephanie Page regarding rescheduling a meeting with Director Taylor. Kyle would like to meet in person with a Zoom meeting component. He has not received a reply. At this time there has not been a date set for the implementation of a Strategic Implementation Area located within the boundaries of the Upper Mainstem and South Fork Ag Water Quality Area.
10. River Democracy Act of 2021 – Kyle stated he watched a hearing held June 23rd on the River Democracy Act of 2021. Testimony was provided by BLM, the Forest Service, and Andrea and Tony Malmberg. It was not possible to offer comments during the hearing. Kyle shared a letter written by the American Forest Resource Council as well as an article from the Blue Mt. Eagle. Kyle recommended the District continue with its course of action making its position known. Kyle stated the District's comments should be based on particular items; the unintended consequences and the criteria that enabled stream segments to be included in the Act. Congress can put its intentions into a bill but it will be the federal agencies that will write and direct the Act. The Directors stated they felt the Act needed to have clearer definitions as well as well-defined terms. They felt the Act was another layer of restrictions on federal lands. The Directors agreed by consensus for Kyle to provide a letter from the District opposing the Act.
11. Break – At 5:15 Pat Voigt stated the meeting would take a ten-minute break and would then go into Executive Session. Action may be taken after the Executive Session.
12. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(h) – At 5:25 Pat Voigt stated the meeting would go into Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(h): "To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to litigation or litigation likely to be filed."
13. Other –
14. Other –

At 6:35 Pat stated the meeting was back in open session.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

15. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of June 2021 were reviewed.
16. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of June 2021. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.



Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date