



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 7th 2017 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair - Director

Pat Voigt - Director

Roger Ediger – Director

Joanne Keerins – Director

Nick Stiner – Associate Director

Staff:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Jason Kehrberg-District Manager

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Emma Anspach-Natural Resources Conservation Service

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes- **Phil moved to approve the October 5th, 2017 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors to introduce.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron stated Lorraine was at a training session and unable to attend. Aaron introduced Emma Anspach, who has been with NRCS John Day Field office for three months now. Aaron said Emma is a good addition to the team. Emma stated she is enjoying the work.
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 – Joanne gave the report in Amy’s absence. Staff has been busy catching up with office details and grant deadlines. Presentations regarding the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) have been made to the Resource Advisory Council for the BLM and Forest Service as well as the Malheur Forest Blue Mt. Ranger District and the Forest Leadership Team. Funding has been received from the Ford Family Foundation to hire a facilitator and plans are being made for the kick-off meeting on January 23, 2018.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. ODA Focus Area – Jason stated the development and implementation of an ODA-approved Focus Area Action Plan (FAAP) for a specific Focus Area is a required element of the OR Dept. of Agriculture Capacity Grant the District receives. Focus Areas are an effort to concentrate implementation of the Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan in a small watershed, documenting initial conditions and tracking outcomes resulting from implementation activities. The District has felt uncomfortable selecting a Focus Area and has asked ODA to choose the area, with the District conducting landowner outreach and implementation activities. In 2014 ODA chose Strawberry Creek as the Focus Area. The District received no landowner response to the outreach activities and determined that due to a lack of landowner interest a new Focus Area should be chosen. In 2016 ODA chose Warrens Creek as the new Focus Area. The District conducted landowner outreach activities and received interested responses from several landowners. The District, working with a landowner, has completed one water quality improvement project and is planning a second project within the Warrens Creek Focus Area. Jason stated he felt the District had reached the limit of landowner interest in the Warrens Creek area and that a new Focus Area should be chosen. ODA is putting pressure on the District to choose the new Focus Area. Jason stated he wanted to ensure he was following the Director’s direction regarding choosing a new Focus Area. Discussion followed on the issue. The Directors agreed by consensus they were not supportive of the District choosing a new Focus Area and prefer ODA to make the selection.
22. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(i) – This item was moved to after item 28.
23. Other –
24. Other -

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt reported he and Tereasa attended the annual Oregon Vegetation Management Association conference held in Seaside. The conference offered a lot of information on herbicides being tested for new uses and label updates. The first week of October Matt coordinated with Leading Edge Aviation from Clarkston Washington to aerial spray 4,443 acres of Medusahead within the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area. In mid-October 111 acres were treated for Medusahead for a private landowner in the Ritter area. Approximately 50 acres of Grant County roadsides were treated for fall residual. Matt is testing the effectiveness of applying residual on roadsides in the fall. Matt and Tereasa are organizing and compiling application data from 2017 as well as working on an ODA grant application to treat five of the highest priority noxious weeds in the county. Grant Weed Control is working with Wheeler County and Monument SWCD for future Leafy spurge treatment, Ochoco National Forest to implement new partnerships, and the Malheur Forest on 2018 noxious weed treatments.
26. District Programs – Jason reported the District is accepting sealed bids on several pieces of surplus materials, equipment, and vehicles. Bids will be accepted until 3:00pm on December 29, 2017. Jason passed out photos of the items that are being offered. District auction proceeds will be used to assist with the purchase of a new rental rangeland drill. District technical staff is completing construction bid packages and obtaining applicable permits to support the 2018 implementation of Big Creek Reach 4 Floodplain Connectivity, Ballance Creek, Colvin, and Twelve Mile Creek Stockwater Systems, Ricco Hall and John Day River Diversions, and the District Diversion Maintenance Project. Two OWEB projects, Fry Camp and McClellan Creek have been completed. The District is planning the first signup period for the RCPP - Blue Mts. Vegetation Health Initiative for early March 2018. Kyle is working on the ranking criteria. NRCS will fund the contracts with the District providing technical assistance. Effective January 1, 2018 the District, through an OWEB grant, will employ a CREP (Conservation

Reserve Enhancement Program) technician to manage CREP contracts in Baker and Grant counties.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- 27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of October and November 2017 were reviewed.
- 28. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of October and November 2017. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

At 4:50 pm Pat Voigt announced a 10 minutes recess and that after the recess the meeting would go into Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i).

At 5:40 pm Pat Voigt declared the meeting back in open session. **Phil moved to approve the 2018 salary proposal submitted by Jason. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.



Board Chair

2-1-18
Date



District Manager

2/1/18
Date