



Grant Soil and Water Conservation District
Kenneth H. Delano Agricultural Service Center
721 S. Canyon Blvd. - John Day, OR 97845 - Phone (541) 575-0135

MINUTES OF GRANT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
December 5th, 2024 Meeting

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Roger Ediger – Director
Phil St. Clair – Director
Jared Livingston – Associate Director

Pat Voigt – Director
Joanne Keerins – Director -telephone

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager
Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Visitors:

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner
Brent Smith – OR Dept. Agriculture

Hannah Smith – Natural Resource Conservation Service

ADMINISTRATION

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 November 7th, 2024, meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Pat welcomed the visitors attending in person and by telephone.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Hannah reported the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) deadline is Friday, December 6, 2024. The office currently has received 130 applications. Office staff are busy with renewal contracts for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Ellie Justice has been hired as a Soil Conservationist in the John Day office.
6. FSA – A representative was unable to attend.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Joanne reported the South Fork Watershed Council, with support from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs gave out 14,000 pounds of grass seed to twenty landowners who were affected by the recent wildfires. Several of the landowners are coordinating with Matt regarding having the seed applied aerially.
8. Malheur Forest – A representative was unable to attend.

9. ODA – Brent reported he has begun to organize the Full Biennial Review for the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. Tentative plans are to hold the review April 8th or 9th, 2025. The Local Advisory Committee will have two new members, Didgette McCracken and Stefan Kelly. The North and Middle Forks John Day River Ag Water Quality Plan will also hold a full review in 2025.
10. Department of Environmental Quality – A representative was unable to attend.
11. OR Dept. Forestry – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

12. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported the staff has winterized all the equipment and moved the liquid herbicide out of the storage shed at the office down to the chem shed. He is working on a contract modification with Leading Edge Aviation to include seeding with an extension to 2031. He has been working on end-of-year reports for BLM and the Forest Service. Plans are being made for next year's work on the Malheur Forest which may include seeding some areas affected by the Rail Ridge Fire. He recently ordered 44,000 lbs. of seed that will be applied on six landowner ships. The landowners are funding the seeding themselves.
13. District Programs – The Program Status Report was sent out in the Directors meeting packet. Kyle encouraged the Directors to contact him if they had any questions. He reported the District will be working with John Day, Canyon City, Prairie City and Monument to reduce Juniper around city limits. Funding for this is provided by the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program through the Oregon State Fire Marshall's office. Plans are to have an Invitation To Bid mailed out next week, with work to begin in early January. Bureau of Reclamation is reviewing the results of the Airborne Electromagnetic Survey completed in early October. The bids for the survey were much lower than expected which has resulted in a surplus of funding. Kyle asked the Directors for input on areas in the county that would benefit from an electromagnetic survey. Areas mentioned were Long Creek, Bear Valley, Fox and Cottonwood Creek.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

At 5:10 Pat Voigt stated there would be a 10 minutes recess after which the meeting would go into Executive Session.

14. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Pat called the meeting into Executive Session, under ORS 192.660(2)(i) at 5:20. At 5:30, Pat stated the meeting was back in open session.
15. Salary/Incentive Review and Discussion – Kyle presented the 2025 proposed salary adjustments and 2024 incentive payments. **Joanne approved the 2025 salary adjustments, and 2024 incentive payments as presented. Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.** Kyle stated the engineering staff is becoming diversified, doing work with private landowners, the Malheur Forest and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The weed department is very successful, with Matt working constantly for landowners. The District is very fortunate to have the staff it has.
16. Audit Review – Pat went over the District's 2023-24 audit. The Management letter was provided to the Directors. Pat reviewed the Statement of Net Position, as well as the General Fund, Weed Control Fund and the Soil and Water Projects Fund.

Pat presented the Plan of Action for Grant Soil & Water Conservation District. The audit showed three deficiencies and the Plan of Action addresses those. **Phil moved to approve the Plan of Action, dated November 15, 2024, for Grant Soil & Water Conservation District. Roger gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

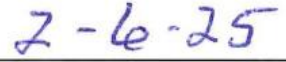
17. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of November 2024 were reviewed.
18. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of November 2024.**

Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.



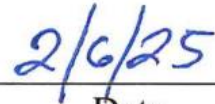
Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date