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**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**  
**September 6, 2018 MEETING**

**Attendance**

**Directors:**

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

Joanne Keerins - Director  
Roger Ediger – Director

**Staff:**

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant  
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Jason Kehrberg - District Manager  
Kyle Sullivan – GIS Technician

**Visitors:**

Amy Stiner – South Fork John Day Watershed Council

Maria Snodgrass – OR Dept. Agriculture

**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 July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors present.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Lorraine was unable to attend.
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 – Maria Snodgrass reported the 2019 biennial review for the Upper Mainstem and South Fork Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan will be held January 30, 2019. Maria stated her plan is to send out the revised plan to all LAC members prior to the January meeting. This will enable the more important points to be worked on at the meeting. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) are expected to increase in the next several years. Positive results are coming from SIA's that have been implemented and ODA feels they are very successful. The Directors expressed concern that ODA will not have the resources to support additional SIA's. Roger expressed agriculture cannot control water quality issues that occur off private land, but are being held accountable for those issues.
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 the Council has had a busy summer. The Council sponsored the Beaver Dam Analog workshop, which is featured on the front page of the Blue Mt. Eagle this week. Amy attended a Non-Profit Resource Roundup that provided training for strategic planning for non-profits and funder presentations. Council staff are collecting data in the Bark Project Area on Malheur and Deer Creek and Murderers Creek. Data being collected includes hydrologic surveys, groundwater dependent ecosystem data, spring source locations, and aspen inventory. The data collection is being funded through OR Dept. Forestry OR Federal Forest Restoration funds with the goal of keeping the project area on track for 2020 implementation.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

21. Preliminary Focus Area Evaluation - Kyle presented how he has been modeling LIDAR data along Fox Creek to determine current riparian vegetation conditions and estimate potential vegetation influence to limit solar radiation impacts to the stream. The District will use this data as part of its Focus Area Action Plan for monitoring future changes in biomass volumes resulting from strategic conservation projects and outreach. ODA previously used fly over photographs to provide a vegetation assessment. The District hopes to be able to utilize the solar radiation estimates to plan specific vegetation protection and planting associated with strategic project implementation. Discussion was held on the various results this analysis could provide.
22. District Long Range Plan – Jason stated ODA requires Districts to have a 5 year business plan. The District's current plan expires the end of 2018. Jason reviewed several components of the 2019-2023 Plan with the Directors and asked for their comments. Rick asked if there was an advantage to being more specific in the Plan. Jason felt there might be a possibility the District could be held accountable if specifics were included in Plan and were not accomplished. Rick said he would like to have some focus on water storage in the Basin. The Directors agreed by consensus to have the District's 2019-2023 Business Plan include water storage in the Natural Resource Concerns section.
23. Director Project Tour – Jason asked the Directors if they were interested in a tour of several projects the District has implemented this year in the Middle Fork area. The tour will take most of a day. It was the consensus of the Directors to have a tour of the stockwater projects on October 4<sup>th</sup> beginning mid-morning.
24. Other –

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

25. Weed Control – Matt recently met with the new Malheur Forest Noxious Weed Specialist regarding current and future noxious weed treatment. Matt stated he is looking forward to a good working relationship. The weed crew will begin treatment in mid-September for the ODA Leafy spurge project in conjunction with Monument SWCD. Treatment will continue for one month. Approximately 90% of the Title II Grazing Lands 25% Cost-Share Program has been completed, with two landowners remaining with treatment to begin soon on the 50% Cost-Share program. Noxious weed treatment available through the ODA Tri-County grant is planned to begin soon. The ODA Top 5 Priority Weed Grant is 75% complete. Yellowflag iris treatment will begin as soon as irrigation season is over and work will resume on the ODA Crook/Grant County Musk and Scotch thistle project. Matt is scheduled to collect Canada Thistle Gals for distribution later this month. Grant Weed Control recently picked up the new Ford pickup and purchased a new 2018 Polaris ATV. Matt stated he hopes to be using the Ford in the field within the next two weeks.
26. District Programs – Jason reported work has been completed on the 12-Mile Stockwater Improvement Project and the Big Creek Habitat Improvement Project. Adaptive management work on 10 District previously installed irrigation diversions is currently ongoing and expected to be complete next week. The work is centered mainly on the fish passage and did not affect the irrigation capabilities of the diversions. Technical assistance for the adaptive management activities was funded through BOR with construction funded by a Title II grant. Four

fencing and two stockwater projects are currently on hold due to the high fire danger conditions. Work on these projects will continue as soon as weather conditions improve.

Tereasa Perkins, CREP Technician was able to re-enroll 6 2018 contracts, enroll 8 new 2018 contracts, and assist with 10 2018 Mid-management Activities for landowners in Grant and Baker Counties. She is currently contacting landowners eligible for 2019 contract renewals and Mid-management Activities. She is also working with 2 landowners on new CREP contracts and will be have those signed as soon as the Farm Bill is approved as well as with 9 landowners interested in entering into a CREP contract.

#### FINANCIAL BUSINESS

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of July and August 2018 were reviewed.

28. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of July and August 2018. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

  
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Board Chair

11-1-18

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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Manager

11/1/18

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Date