



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 3, 2020 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Pat Voigt - Director
Phil St. Clair – Director
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

Amy Stiner – Via telephone

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Phil moved to approve the November 5th, 2020 meeting minutes. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors attending.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron provided an update on the current NRCS Covid-19 office procedures. The office procedures are based on Grant County's Covid-19 positivity rate. As a result, the John Day field office will be going back to a more closed down situation with limited staff in building and working with landowners via phone. The procedures are based on Grant County's Covid positivity rate from November 15th. Aaron stated he is hoping in the next few weeks that Grant County's positivity rate will go down and the office can move to a more non-restrictive situation. Both staff positions open in the office have been offered to an applicant. Teresa Perkins was offered and accepted the Soil Conservation Technician position and is expected to start in early January 2021. Kyle stated Teresa gave him her resignation from the District today, effective December 31, 2020. The Local Work Group meeting is usually held in February with attendance in person. Due to meeting restrictions, it may be necessary to hold the 2021 Local Work Group as a virtual meeting. The deadline for EQIP and CSP applications is April 15, 2021.

Upper South Fork Watershed Council – Amy reported the Council is busy reporting on completed projects and planning for future ones.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

6. Weed Control – Matt reported he and Nate have been cleaning, servicing and winterizing equipment. He and Kyle met with Ryan Torland, ODFW, regarding several potential grant opportunities. Matt submitted a 50/50 cost-share grant application to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement annual grass treatments on private lands in the John Day Valley corridor. Results of the grant application should be available by March 21, 2021. Matt worked with Ryan on a grant ODFW submitted to aeriually treat annual grasses in big game winter habitat. Matt is looking into a potential partnership with Bayer to implement noxious weed control. Discussion followed on the feasibility of treating annual grasses on federal lands. Matt explained testing being conducted with annual grass control.
7. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors. He stated it was a busy month, mostly spent getting ready for the meeting that never happened. Cole is working with Mark Croghan on future task orders. Kyle has

been in touch with the District's Bureau of Reclamation representative and things seem to be moving forward with the new Agreements.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

8. OACD Ballots – Kyle explained the District has been contacted by OACD regarding having each SWCD Board vote for the OACD Board of Directors. The election cannot be conducted at the virtual Annual Meeting to be held November 10th as the Zoom process would allow those on the call who were not District representatives to vote. **Phil moved to have Grant Soil & Water Conservation District support the election of the following candidates; Ken Masten, Jason Faucera, Tim Newton, Jeff Rola, and Karin Stutzman to the OACD Board of Directors. Joanne gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
9. SIA Update – Kyle stated he will be in contact with Stephanie Page next week regarding the possibility of setting a new date for the meeting with Director Taylor. Discussion was held on the cancellation of the meeting with Director Taylor. Roger stated he is very disappointed and disheartened with ODA and finds it very difficult to take anything they say seriously. He feels there was any number of ways that the meeting could have been held, but ODA chose to not do anything. Kyle said he is scheduled to meet with Mark Owens on the 8th and is looking forward to hearing Mark's insight on the cancellation. Kyle asked Roger to attend and said it is important that the District continue to move forward with the SIA issue with ODA.
10. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Pat Voigt stated Item #10 will be moved to after Item #12.
11. Other – Kyle reported Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHA) has adopted a temporary administrative rule requiring employers to carry out Covid-19 risk reducing measures that went into effect November 16th and will remain in place until May 4, 2021. The measures include; 6 feet between work stations and the requirement of masks for all employees. Each employee will be in charge of cleaning daily a section of the office. Kyle reported the District is meeting all OSHA requirements with documentation.
12. Other – Kyle stated it has been a challenge for the weed department to keep seasonal employees employed for several years. He would like to see the new CREP position serve only Grant County contracts and work part-time with the weed district. The Baker NRCS field office is looking into having an employee take over the CREP activities in Baker County. It would be an advantage if the person hired had a plant science background to assist with CREP restoration activities as well as noxious weed treatments. The Directors agreed by consensus for the new CREP position to share job duties with the weed department.

Pat Voigt announced the meeting would take a 10-minute break.

Pat Voigt announced at 5:20pm that the meeting would go into Executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(i).


At 6:47 Pat Voigt announced the meeting was back in regular session.

Phil moved to approve the 2021 wage adjustments as presented by the District Manager as well as a 7% 2020 Incentive payment for all District employees. Roger gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.



Board Chair

1-7-21

Date



District Manager

1-21-2021

Date