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**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**  
**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting**

**Attendance**

**Directors Attending:**

Roger Ediger – Director  
Phil St. Clair – Director  
Rick Henslee - Director  
Jared Livingston – Associate Director

Pat Voigt – Director  
Joanne Keerins – Director -telephone  
Dustin Kreger – Associate Director  
Alec Oliver – Associate Director - telephone

**Staff Attending:**

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager  
Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

**Visitors:**

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner  
Didget McCracken – OSU Extension  
Kailey Heiple – Farm Service Agency

Hannah Smith – NRCS – Telephone  
Jason Brandt – Malheur Forest  
Emma Gabriel – Farm Service Agency

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Rick moved to approve the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes. Roger 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 deadline for EQIP applications is December 29, 2024. The office staff is working on Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) renewal applications. Ellie Justice will be joining the John Day office as a Soil Conservationist. Her first day will be December 18<sup>th</sup>.
6. FSA – Emma provided information on several programs that can help producers affected by the recent wildfires. The office is working with the OR Dept. Forestry on the Emergency Forest Restoration Program that assists with replanting forest areas. The deadline for applications is in April 2025. The Emergency Conservation Program provides 75% cost-share, up to \$4.49 a foot, to repair and replace fences lost. The deadline to apply for the program is December 6, 2024. The Livestock Forage Program provides assistance with grazing losses on federal grazing permits. It has a deadline of January 31, 2025. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program (ELAP) can help with hauling water, feed and livestock due to adverse weather events or loss conditions. The Livestock Indemnity Program provides benefits to cover livestock deaths due to fire conditions. The deadline for the program is January 31, 2025.

Emma reported she has taken a new position, Farm Program Specialist, with the Farm Service Agency. She will still be located at the Harney County office but will not be in the John Day office very often.

7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Phil reported the Rail Ridge Fire affected many of the project areas the Council was working in. The Council and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are offering a program to provide seed to landowners affected by the Rail Ridge Fire.
8. Malheur Forest – Jason reported recent weather has provided a good snow cover on areas affected by the Rail Ridge Fire.
9. ODA – A representative was unable to attend.
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 they will be applying seed to several areas on the Malheur Forest. He is also working with private landowners interested in winter seeding projects. Aerial application of herbicide was completed on October 26<sup>th</sup> with over 49,000 acres treated with Rejuvra. This year's treatment season had significant challenges with adverse weather and the Rail Ridge Fire flight restrictions. Plans are to complete broadleaf treatment in the Monument area in the next several weeks. He is working with the Hawksview Ranch on a seeding program for areas affected by the Rail Ridge Fire.
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. The Airborne Electromagnetic Survey was completed on October 7<sup>th</sup>. BOR will process the information gathered and provide it in a useable product that the District can assist landowners with. Work is continuing with projects that were not able to be started this summer due to fire conditions. Three additional communities will accomplish juniper removal around city boundaries. The District was unsuccessful with a RCPP grant application to accomplish Rejuvra treatments in areas not previously treated, as well as to reseed areas already treated. Kyle stated the District will continue to search for funding sources that can assist with seeding.

### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

14. Flood Plain Insurance – Kyle stated premium rates have steadily increased for the flood plain insurance. The 2025 premiums will be over \$5,000. Kyle's recommendation is to not continue the insurance. He asked for the Director's input. Discussion was held with the consensus being to postpone a decision until the December meeting.
15. OGEC Public Meetings Law Training – Kyle is working to schedule an in-person training sometime in January or February.
16. NRCS Lease – The District's lease with the federal government for a portion of the building expired in June 2024. A five-year renewal was approved on October 1, 2024. The new rental rate is \$4,154 a month, a \$1,507 increase.
17. Fire Rehabilitation Discussion – Kyle reported as a result of this summer's fires, NRCS estimates 28,000 acres will need reseeding. On federal land an estimated 350 miles of fence was lost. There were 316,000 acres burned in Grant County. These are just some of the fire rehabilitation issues that have been discussed. The District will continue to look for opportunities to assist landowners affected.
18. Other – Kyle reported the District was subpoenaed to testify on November 20<sup>th</sup> in regard to a past project located on Indian Creek.

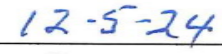
### **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

19. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of October 2024 were reviewed.

20. Approve Bills – Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of October 2024. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

  
Board Chair

  
Date

  
District Manager

  
Date

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