



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
June 1, 2023 Meeting

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Roger Ediger – Director

Pat Voigt- Chairman

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager

Matt Wenick – Grant Weed Control Coordinator

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Debbie Arntz – Farm Service Agency

Stephan Kelly – CTWSR Watershed Restoration Coordinator

Phil St. Clair – Director

Joanne Keerins – Director

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Colleen Malaney - Malheur Forest Partnership Coordinator

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner

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 May 4, 2023 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Pat introduced Stephan Kelly, Watershed Coordinator with Confederated Tribes Warm Springs Reservation.
4. Public Input – There was no public input

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron reported the office is working on finalizing RCPP contracts in the South Fork area as well as working with the Joint Chiefs applications. He hopes to be able to get out to the Joint Chiefs application locations in the next few weeks. An extra EQIP allocation was received that will be used to fund additional forestry contracts in the Ritter area. The May 30th Oregon Drought Monitor map was handed out. The map no longer shows any severe drought areas in the state.
6. FSA – Debbie reported the 2023 Grassland Conservation Reserve Program signups have been completed. Grant County had four completed applications, and Harney County had nine, that will go forward to the ranking process. Producers are submitting documentation for assistance with abnormal calf losses due to extreme weather conditions in areas of Grant and Harney County, through the Livestock Indemnity Program. In order to qualify the weather event has to be abnormal. The County Committee will compare normal weather data, including wind, snow and temperature, to the 2023 weather for the specific time period to determine an abnormal weather event. Grant County qualified for the 2023 Livestock Forage Program based on the Drought Monitor showing a portion of Grant County at D3, Extreme Drought, on April 1, 2023. The Pandemic Revenue Assistance Program deadline has been extended to July 14, 2023.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Joanne reported the Good Neighbor project was completed in May. The staff is working on getting ready for this summer's projects.
8. ODA – Maria was unable to attend.
9. Malheur Forest – Colleen reported the Blue Mt. Ranger District is currently 80% staffed and will be hiring twelve new permanent positions in the next two months. Chase Bloom, recently was announced as the Prairie City District Ranger. The Prairie City Ranger District is currently 40% staffed with ten vacant positions. The Northeast Oregon RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) will meet June 28th at 9:00am at the Grant County Airport to award Title II grants. The draft Wild Horse Environmental Assessment will be out for public comment soon.
10. CTWSR – Steph stated he wanted to attend the meeting and introduce himself. He has been with CTWSR for five years. CTWSR is

also understaffed but hope to be at full capacity in the next month. The last year was busy with the Middle Fork project. Steph stated he is available to answer any questions regarding tribal projects.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

11. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported roadside spraying has been completed on all Grant and Wheeler County Road right-of-ways. Noxious weed work has begun on Forest Service, BLM and private land. The deadline for Requests For Proposals for the aerial application of herbicide through the Community Wildfire Defense Grant was May 28th. Leading Edge Aviation received the contract. Matt reported he has looked at several areas that were treated for annual grasses two to three years ago and they all looked good. Recently a Leafy Spurge plant was sited along the road shoulder near the Covered Wagon rest area off Highway 26. This was the first siting of Leafy Spurge in the John Day Valley. The site was treated and will continue to be monitored. Matt stated he would like to purchase a new ATV. They are having mechanical issues with the 2018 Polaris. He would like to trade it in for a new one. He has received a quote from John Day Polaris for \$7,750 with the trade-in of the 2018 Polaris. **Joanne moved to approve the purchase of a new 850 Polaris. Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
12. District Programs – Kyle stated the Program Status Report was included in the Board packet. Kyle stated there may be a possibility for the District to receive funding to build technical capacity or hire a part-time coordinator to assist with large scale collaboration efforts. The issue will be discussed further in the future. The Directors expressed support for the District branching out in new directions.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

13. Annual Workplan Review – Kyle reviewed the District’s Annual Work Plan for July 2023 to June 2024 with the Directors. **Joanne moved to approve Grant Soil & Water Conservation District’s 2023-24 Annual Work Plan. Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
14. Indian Creek Water Right Issue – Kyle reported a project the District implemented in 2002 is being placed at the center of a water dispute between two neighbors on Indian Creek; one neighbor is not providing water, or allowing access to the diversion, to the other neighbor. Kyle provided information on the history of events involving the project. Kyle stated he feels this is an issue between neighbors and does not feel the District has any responsibility. He will keep the Directors informed.
15. Other – Kyle stated recently Rick told him he felt the Work Sessions held are very important as they involve interaction between the Directors and the staff, which the Directors rarely have. To address this issue, Kyle stated he plans to have a staff member attend each Board meeting and give a short presentation on what they are currently working on within their job duties. The Directors agreed that it would be a good idea.
16. Other – Kyle reviewed a draft of the Story Map video project funded through the OR Department of Forestry Landscape Resiliency Project. Discussion followed on the future use of this tool to show restoration work accomplished in the John Day Basin.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

17. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of May 2023 were reviewed.
18. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of May 2023. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.


Board Chair

7-6-23
Date


District Manager

7-6-2023
Date