



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  
April 1, 2021 MEETING**

**Attendance**

**Directors Attending:**

Joanne Keerins – Director via telephone  
Rick Henslee – Director

Phil St. Clair – Director via telephone (arrived late)  
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

**Staff Attending:**

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant  
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager  
Neil Brooks – GSWCD Vegetation Specialist

**Visitors:**

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Emma Gabriel – Farm Service Agency

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Call Meeting to Order – At 4:00pm Kyle stated that until Phil calls there is not a quorum of Directors. The meeting will begin with Reports given. Phil called in at 4:20.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Joanne moved to approve the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Kyle introduced Neil Brooks. Neil has been hired as the Vegetation Specialist for the District and the CREP technician for NRCS. He was born in John Day, graduated from Mt. Vernon High School and served and retired from the military.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Aaron stated that due to Covid restrictions, staff are not meeting with producers directly in the office. The EQIP and RCPP deadline is April 16<sup>th</sup>. The CSP Classic signup deadline has been extended to April 30. Aaron stated the staff is looking forward to working with Neil in the CREP program. The new Soil Conservationist position will start in the John Day office on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Aaron reported NRCS and the District have been working together on the Joint Chiefs proposal. The John Day Field office has been scheduled for a Quality Assurance Review on May 17 & 18 2021.

FSA – Emma Gabriel, Harney-Grant Farm Service Agency County Executive Director – Emma reported a new CFAP program will provide a payment to producers who qualified for a CFAP 1 payment in 2020. Payments will be calculated on the producer's eligible highest owned livestock inventory between April 16 thru May 14, 2020. An additional payment will be made to producers of flat-rate crops based on eligible 2020 acres.

South Fork Council – Joanne reported the South Fork John Day Watershed Council is busy planning for this summer's projects.

**DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

6. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported work is progressing on right of way spraying in Grant and Wheeler counties. To date, treatment is complete on 50% of the rock pits. The 50% Cost-Share program is currently being advertised with applications being accepted until April 16<sup>th</sup>. Grant Weed Control received twenty-three applications for the 25% Annual Grass Cost-Share program. Matt will be meeting with the landowners who signed up in the next month to assess the areas they want to treat. Notification was received that Grant Weed Control's application to the National Fish and Wildlife Fund grant program to treat annual grasses was not selected for funding.. The grant will be reapplied for next year. Matt is assisting Bayer in locating four areas to place test plots to test the herbicide Rejuvra in a real-life ranch situation in the

John Day Valley and in the Long Creek area. The test plots will be a part of a 3–5-year study.

7. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the Project Status Report included in the board packet. The District was notified the Scotty Creek Water Development OWEB grant application to install water developments and hardened crossings in a grazing permit was funded. Tyler was the lead author and this was his first grant application since working for the District. The District was notified the Upper John Day Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study application was approved for funding by OR Water Resources. Jason was the lead on the application and is currently working on an OWEB technical assistance grant for cost-share. Kyle and Pat V. had lunch with Ken Delano and informed him of the District’s intention to name the building after him. Ken was touched and humbled. Cole and Tyler met with OR Water Resources to check the ramp flumes installed on the Ricco diversions.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

8. NRCS Agreements – Kyle stated the two agreements between the District and NRCS discussed at the March meeting, are based on national templates and have no flexibility to be changed. Aaron provided an explanation of several terms used in the agreements. The last agreement between the District and NRCS was signed in 1994 and was one page. Kyle stated he was concerned about the possible unfunded mandates stated in the agreements and how they may be interpreted in the future, however there is definitely a spirit of cooperation in our office with Aaron and NRCS. The Directors agreed they have a lot of faith and confidence in the NRCS staff the District is currently working with. Joanne stated even with the issues discussed, she feels the District should move forward with the new agreements. **Joanne moved to approve Agreement #N4121UCA0001511 and #N4121MOU0011477. Rick gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.** Aaron stated he looks forward to continuing a good relationship with the District.
9. ODOT Hwy 395 Sidewalk Project – Kyle reported Leslie Hass, ODOT Right of Way Agent met with District staff and Aaron as part of ODOT’s appraisal process for the sidewalk project. Kyle provided information about the District and the potential impacts of the sidewalk project. The District is preparing a compensation request to ODOT for the loss parking spaces as well as for two permanent and two temporary easements.
10. OACD Working Lands Protection Survey – Kyle reviewed the completed Working Lands Protection survey sent out by the OACD Working Lands Committee. Kyle asked Pat H. to assist him in completion of the survey. They answered the questions in the survey honestly and often fairly bluntly. Kyle stated he provided a copy of the completed survey for the Director’s information. Rick said he is interested in what is driving the survey.
11. Other – Kyle said the River Democracy Act, legislation recently introduced by Wyden and Merkley, adds nearly 4,700 miles of rivers and streams in Oregon to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Kyle stated he would like to do additional research on the act as it may be an issue the District would like to be on record with. The Directors agreed. Rick asked if it included any restrictions on irrigation water.
12. Other –

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

13. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of March 2021 were reviewed.
14. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of March 2021. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

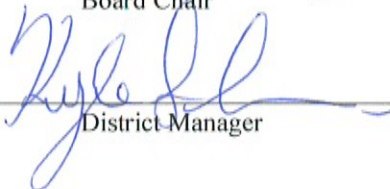
The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.



Board Chair

5-6-21

Date



District Manager

5/6/2021

Date