



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 1st, 2016 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors:

Rick Henslee - Director
Roger Ediger – Director
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

Joanne Keerins – Director
Pat Voigt - Director

Staff:

Jason Kehrberg – District Manager
Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Visitors:

Lorraine Vogt – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Maria Snodgrass - OR Dept. Agriculture

Russ Powell – OR Dept. Fish & Wildlife

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 November 3rd, 2016 meeting minutes. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors in attendance.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Lorraine reported at this time, the two new positions for the John Day office have not been advertised. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) deadline is February 17, 2017. Applications will be taken for the following activities:
 - Juniper removal prioritized for Mule Deer habitat in the Northside Unit
 - Aspen restoration prioritized for Mule Deer habitat in the Northside Unit
 - Forest thinning and slash treatment in the Prairie City, Austin/Bates, and Granite areas
 - Abandoned field restoration throughout the county.

The Kahler Multi-County Uplands Improvement Project, funded through the Conservation Implementation Strategy program, will improve upland facets of a 3 mile buffer around Forest Service land. An area in the northwest corner of Grant County is included in the project. The 2017 deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program is February 3, 2017. The 2017 Local Work Group will meet January 31, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Oregon Department of Forestry meeting room.

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 – Russ reported the Murderers Creek fence was completed today. Bids will be open December 22nd for the Pryor Ten Mile Canyon Fence Project.
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 reported she met with Nick Stiner, Ben Holliday, and Mark Webb potential new members of the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day Local Advisory Committee. Any new Local Advisory Committee members must be approved by OR Department of Agriculture. Maria reported she will be the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) lead for the Abiqua SIA, located in Marion County. She is moving forward with the edits on the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. Discussion was held on the increased number of Strategic Implementation Areas as well as the rise in compliance investigations in 2016.
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 – Joanne gave the report in Amy's absence. Jeff Neal and Ian Tattum each recently gave presentations to the Council on the work they have been doing in the South Fork John Day River, Murderers and Deer Creek. The Council conducted 3 site tours for recently submitted OWEB applications. The staff is working with various funders on potential projects as well as completing reporting requirements.
19. Monument SWCD – Bryan was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(i) – This was moved to after Item 31.
22. Other – Jason presented the Whistle Blower Protections Policy to the Directors. **Joanne moved to approve the Whistle Blower Protections Policy. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
23. Other – Jason reviewed the comments the District will be submitting regarding the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program Legislative Concepts. Roger asked to be able to review the document at home. He will send his comments to Jason.

Roger asked Matt to assist him in identifying a weed he has noticed located in wet areas on his property.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

24. Weed Control – Matt reported all 2016 projects have been completed. Grant Weed Control was visited by Mark Porter, the Integrated Weed Management Coordinator for Northeast Oregon. Matt and Tereasa will be attending the Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium December 6th – 8th, in Corvallis. Pesticide Applicator training will be held December 7th at the OSU Extension office.
25. CTWSR of OR/BPA Project Summary – The Project Summary was sent to the Directors in their packet and is attached to the official copy of the minutes. Jason reported work is continuing on the Larson and McHaley projects. Levi is busy with the construction management. All of the pipe should be installed at the Larson project by the end of week. The instream portion will be installed in the 2017 instream work period. The McHaley project is approximately 75% complete. Cole Winegar, newly hired Engineering Technician will begin work December 7th. Jason stated Cole will be working on the Fox Creek and Belshaw Creek projects.

- 26. ODFW Contract Projects – The summary of the ODFW Contract Projects was sent to the Directors in their packet and is attached to the official copy of the minutes. Currently, construction is being done on one fence project. Bids will be opened December 22nd for the Pryor Ten Mile Canyon Fence, which will have all steel structures. The District submitted an OWEB grant to cost-share, with OR Department of Fish and Wildlife, construction of riparian fences.
- 27. OWEB Grants – The status of the OWEB grants is in the Project Summary. Jason reported the District provided assistance to a landowner in the Warrens Creek Focus Area with an OWEB Small Grant, to fund construction of a riparian fence.
- 28. Title II Program– The status of the Title II program is in the Project Summary. The District is working with the Malheur Forest to obtain agreements for the four Title II projects approved in July 2016.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- 29. Audit–The field work for the District’s 2015-16 audit was conducted November 7th -9th. No significant issues were raised. The completed audit is scheduled to be issued by December 31, 2016.
- 30. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of November 2016 were reviewed.
- 31. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of November 2016. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

At 4:45pm Pat Voigt announced a 10 minute recess. After the recess the meeting will go into Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(i).

At 5:40 Pat Voigt declared the meeting back in Open Session. **Joanne moved to approve the 2017 salary proposal submitted by Jason. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Board Chair	Date
District Manager	Date