



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
February 2, 2023 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Rick Henslee – Director
Pat Voigt – Chairman
Phil St. Clair – Director via telephone

Roger Ediger – Director
Joanne Keerins – Director via telephone

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Neal Brooks – CREP Technician
Cole Winegar – District Engineer

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Shannon Wenick – Farm Service Agency

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner
Steph Charette – 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 January 5th, 2023 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – Pat Voigt welcomed Steph Charette to the meeting.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron reported the staff is working on several activities related to the EQIP program. He handed out updated Oregon Drought and Snow Water Equivalent Maps. Aaron will present a Civil Rights Review at the March meeting.
6. FSA – Shannon reported the office has been busy closing out the 2022 Livestock Forage Program. Staff will soon receive training on the new Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program. The program will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. FSA is working with NRCS to move forward Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) applications with the Cultural Review Process.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Joanne and Phil reported the Council is working to continue the Immigrant Creek Project that did not get completed last year.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

8. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported he, Nate, Neil and Pat attended five half-day webinar trainings with Wilbur Ellis to receive continuing education credits to maintain their pesticide licenses. Matt has been invited by Crook SWCD to make a presentation on Annual Grass Treatment at the local landowner meeting in Paulina on February 7th. This will be the same presentation he made at the Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium at OR State University in December. Matt stated he has been working with Jessi Brunson of the Malheur Forest and Brad Lathrop of the Umatilla Forest on agreements for two Title II projects to provide noxious weed control on the individual forests. Matt was notified of price increases on several popular herbicide products. As a result, he ordered a large amount of those herbicides in order to help keep treatment costs down.
9. District Programs – Kyle stated the Program Status Report was included in the board packet.


DISTRICT BUSINESS

- 10. Appointment of Board Officers - Joanne moved to appoint Pat Voigt as Chairman, Phil St. Clair as Vice-Chairman, and Roger Ediger as Treasurer. Rick gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.
- 11. Stephan Charrette (ODFW John Day Basin Fish Biologist): Discussion of District Fish Passage/Habitat Program – Steph stated he wished he would have come to a District meeting sooner. ODFW has seen drought conditions in the last few years adversely affecting fish habitat. This has led ODFW to step back and re-evaluate the impacts of certain projects on fish numbers. This past year has seen the lowest return of adult Steelhead in the past ten years. In response to this, ODFW would like to focus on projects that create and improve habitat. Discussion followed with Steph and the Directors on ways to improve the partnership between ODFW and the District.
- 12. River Democracy Act – Due to limited time this item was not discussed.
- 13. Set Annual Meeting Date (March 2nd? – need resolution) – Joanne moved to approve the Board Resolution establishing March 2, 2023 as Grant SWCD’s Annual Meeting. Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.
- 14. Set Date for Staff/Board Work Session – Kyle stated he would like to hold a staff/board work session to continue the discussion and planning began in 2022 regarding future project types the District’s could be involved with. The Directors agreed to hold a work session on February 15th at 12:00pm. The District will provide lunch.


FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- 15. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of January 2023 were reviewed.
- 16. Approve Bills – Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of January 2023. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.



Board Chair



District Manager

3-2-23
Date

3-2-2023
Date