



---

**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**  
**September 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 MEETING**

**Attendance**

**Directors:**

Phil St. Clair - Director  
Rick Henslee – Director  
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Joanne Keerins – Director  
Pat Voigt - Director

**Staff:**

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant  
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Jason Kehrberg-District Manager

**Visitors:**

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

Valeen Madden – North Fork Watershed Council  
Tom Straughan – OR Association Conservation Districts

**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 June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 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 Emma Anspach has been hired as the new Soil Conservationist in the John Day field office. Emma who came from the Forest Service started in August and is working out well while learning a lot. Lorraine presented two CREP contract renewals for District approval. The first one was for Mike Keerins on Pine Creek for 43.5 acres including juniper removal, the second one is for Louis Coelho on Pass Creek for 105.12 acres, including additional planting and juniper removal. **Phil moved to approve the CREP renewal for Mike Keerins and Louis Coelho as presented. Rick gave the second. Joanne stated she was abstaining due to a conflict of interest. Phil, Rick and Pat voted in favor of the motion.** Lorraine stated she is working on the Conservation Security Program (CSP) renewals which are taking longer than expected as the program has changed greatly. Discussion was held on potential partnership work between the Forest Service, private landowners and OR Department of Forestry. Lorraine relayed a request from the NRCS snow survey leader for information from landowners on temperature, flow conditions and water conditions. The Directors provided their input.
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 – A representative was unable to attend.
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 gave her report under item #21.

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 – Valeen reported the Council has a new Executive Director, Kim Ryals. Kim has a background working with organizations like Watershed Councils in Alaska. Additional new staff members are Katherine Rose, Education and Youth Coordinator and Kristen Walz, Project Coordinator. Justin Rowell continues to serve as a Project Coordinator with Valeen serving as the Assistant Executive Director. The staff is wrapping up the 2017 OYCC field season. A total of 54 kids from Ukiah, Monument, Long Creek and John Day were hired working on 5 different crews doing trail building and maintenance, fencing, as well as helping at the Fairgrounds. The Council has two OWEB applications that are expected to be approved in October and will be submitting several more this fall. One application will be to relocate a road that goes through the Desolation area. The Council has been involved in a substantial amount of restoration work in the Desolation area the last few years.
18. Upper South Fork Watershed Council – Joanne gave the report in Amy's absence. The Council is currently implementing a project installing beaver dam analogs and doing intensive planting on the Izee and St. Clair ranches. Future plans include having Mike Cole conduct invertebrate monitoring on the St. Clair ranch.
19. Monument SWCD – Bryan was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

OACD – Tom Straughan reported OACD is working on a strategy action plan and hopes to have it completed by spring of 2018. The plan stresses the importance of communication as the organization continues to be challenged with this issue. A search for a new executive director is continuing. The 2018 Annual meeting will be held in April in Seaside.

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

21. ODA – Strategic Implementation Area Presentation – Maria gave a presentation on Strategic Implementation Areas. In 2012 the Board of Agriculture recommended OR Dept. Agriculture develop alternatives to Oregon's complaint-based agricultural water quality program. As a result the Ag Water Quality Program initiated two Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) to test the use of systematic, program-initiated compliance across small watersheds. In 2015 ODA prioritized watersheds and started seven new SIAs followed by six new ones in 2016. It is expected ODA will announce 6 additional SIAs in the fall of 2017 followed with six new ones each year. SIAs are selected using the 812 6<sup>th</sup> Field HUCS ODFW prioritized for fish recovery, aerial photo analysis, as well as from input from local conservation agencies. The SIA Implementation Process includes coordination and planning, pre-evaluation using remote evaluation and field survey, outreach and post-evaluation. In 2017-19 \$1.2 million dollars was made available for SIAs to use for technical assistance. Upon a SIA's selection OWEB allocates \$100,000 to the local Soil & Water Conservation District for technical assistance to help landowners implement projects that address the identified water quality concern.
22. Other – 2017-18 Budget– Jason presented the District's 2017-18 budget. **Phil moved to approve Grant Soil & Water Conservation District's 2017-18 budget. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
23. Other –
24. Other –

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

25. Weed Control – Matt reported he attended the OR State Weed Board meeting in Prineville and gave a Grant County update as well as hosting a weed tour in the Izee area. Weed staff spent 12 days on the John Day River spraying Leafy Spurge for the BLM. Title II funding, focusing on Yellow Starthistle, treated a total of 175 acres involving 12 landowners. Staff completed treatment in July for Plumeless Thistle and Squarrose Knapweed funded through ODA. River treatment for Yellow Flag Iris was completed in June with treatment on irrigation ditches to take place in September. Musk and Scotch Thistle treatment in the Izee area was completed in June,

with funding provided by a South Fork Watershed Council grant as well as a Crook County Cooperative Weed Management Area grant. Fall work on the Malheur Forest has begun and will continue as long as weather permits. Treatment on the Leafy Spurge project has started on Fox and Cottonwood Creek and will continue for approximately three weeks. The 2017 OVMA Convention will be held in Seaside in October. Matt is working with ODFW and the District to implement 2,200 acres of aerial herbicide application to treat annual grasses on the Phil Schneider Wildlife Area.

26. 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 the Larson project has been completed despite some very challenging issues. Several projects that the District planned to implement in the future received negative BPA project reviews. The District met with BPA and hopefully has resolved the issues.
27. 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.
28. OWEB Grants – The status of the OWEB grants is in the Project Summary. The District recently applied for an OWEB grant to fund a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) position to serve Baker and Grant Counties. The position will be located in the John Day office.
29. Title II Program – The status of the Title II program is in the Project Summary.

Jason stated the 2016 Alder Creek Project will begin the first part of October. Implementation of the Big Creek project has been postponed until 2018.

Jason stated he attended an interesting presentation on geologic imagery to locate groundwater aquifers.

District staff is working with OR Dept. of Transportation on a proposed sidewalk that will run along Highway 395 from Grant Union Junior/Senior High School to the north east corner of the District's property. The sidewalk will affect parking as well as the highway approaches to District property.

#### **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

30. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of June, July and August 2017 were reviewed.
31. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of June, July and August 2017. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

10-5-17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Manager

10/5/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date