



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 6, 2024 Meeting

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Roger Ediger – Director
Phil St. Clair – Director
Rick Henslee - Director

Pat Voigt – Director
Joanne Keerins - Director

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Emma Imoos - Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jared Livingston

Alec Oliver - Telephone
Dustin Gustaveson – OR Dept. Forestry

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Joanne moved to approve the May 2nd, 2024, meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Pat welcomed the visitors attending in person and by telephone.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Emma Imoos reported the staff is completing the ranking process on Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) will have funding for annual grass control and stockwater developments through the Inflation Reduction Act.
6. FSA – A representative was unable to attend.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Amy was unable to attend. Joanne reported the staff is busy working in the field with contractors. The Council hired a new employee who will start August 1st.
8. Malheur Forest – A representative was unable to attend.
9. ODA – A representative was unable to attend.
10. Department of Environmental Quality - A representative was unable to attend.
11. OR Dept. Forestry – Dustin reported lands protected by OR Dept. Forestry will go into Fire Season Monday, June 10th. The Department will offer opportunities for burn permits until mid-July. The John Day office recently received a Community Assistance Grant from the Forest Service to accomplish fuels reduction around Prairie City limits.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

12. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported bare ground treatment has been completed on all Grant and Wheeler County roads and rock pits. Broadleaf treatments will continue on problem roadsides. The 2024 Annual Grass Tour was held last week with several landowners from Wheeler County attending. Kyle and Matt are working with Wheeler SWCD to submit two Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) applications. Wheeler SWCD will apply for funding to support forestry and juniper control on priority areas within their county; the District will apply for funding for annual grass control in Wheeler and Grant County as well as support a seeding program on areas previously treated for annual grasses. Matt reported he and Nate will be on the John Day River next week applying treatment on Leafy Spurge. Discussion followed on the results Matt is seeing on areas where annual grass treatment has been applied.
13. District Programs – The Program Status Report was sent out in the Directors meeting packet. Kyle encouraged the Directors to contact him if they had any questions. Maria Snodgrass, OR Dept. Agriculture Water Quality Specialist will assume responsibilities for the Central and Southeast region of the state. A new Water Quality Specialist will be hired to replace Maria for the North and Central region. The District was asked to participate in the interview committee for the position. Pat Holliday, along with Herb Winters and Eric Rook will be on the committee. Tyler has been meeting with landowners regarding juniper removal around Grant County cities. The District will be putting out a Request For Quotes for juniper removal around the city of Mt. Vernon. Cole and Neil are working to acquire materials for the Belshaw project. A contractor from Canada has been selected to complete the AEM (Airborne Electromagnetic Method) survey. The company has worked in the United States on multiple projects. Kyle is working with the company regarding contracting issues. Kyle stated he expects the survey to start in mid-July and should take 7 – 10 days to complete.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

14. Associate Board Member – Pat stated he is excited about the three prospective Associate Board members: Alec Oliver, Dustin Kreger and Jared Livingston. Pat asked Jared and Alec to explain their interest in becoming a Grant SWCD Associate Board member. Jared said his interest began with the meeting he attended on instream water rights held at the airport. He feels it is important to know what is going on with issues that will affect his property. In the past his grandmother took that responsibility for his family and now it is his turn. Alec stated the meeting at the Fire Hall provided great initial information on the need to protect the resources Grant County has. He can see the Board is older and feels a variety of ages with new fresh eyes and ideas can have a positive affect. Phil said he enjoys being a part of the District board; he looks forward to the meetings and interactions as well as feeling a sense of accomplishment. Joanne stated Jared and Alec each interact with different people in the County and will bring those experiences with them on the Board. Both of their families have a history of being involved in agricultural issues in the County. Kyle suggested appointing Associate Directors for a term. Every two years was suggested. **Joanne moved to appoint Jared Livingston, Alec Oliver and Dustin Kreger as Grant Soil & Water Conservation District Associate Directors. Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.** Pat stated he believed the District would benefit greatly by having them serve as Associate Directors.
15. Oregon Ethics Training – Kyle reported an Oregon Ethics Commission Training will be held June 12, 2024, 9:00 to 11:30 am, at the John Day Airport. Topics to be covered include conflict of interest, use of position, gifts, and nepotism. Kyle said he and Pat will attend but suggested it would be beneficial for the Directors to also attend. Rick stated he has attended these training sessions before and has found them to be very beneficial.
16. Southern Blues Partners MOU – Kyle stated the Memorandum of Understanding explains what the Southern Blues Partnership is and puts into words what the group hopes to accomplish. Dustin Gustaveson stated it will assist in applying for funding as it shows the group is moving in the same direction. As the group evolved it became apparent, it should have a name and put their goals on paper. Kyle said he wanted the Directors input on the District participating. It was the consensus of the Directors to have Pat sign the Southern Blues Partnership Memorandum of Understanding.
17. Other – Kyle stated as the Directors are aware, the District owns the building and leases space to Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency. The District entered into a new lease agreement in 2014 with an expiration date of May 31, 2024. Kyle and Aaron met in early 2023 regarding possible upgrades to the building that could be included in the new lease. Initial communication with the USDA Realty Specialist

recommended a lease extension for 5 years at the 2014 rental rates. Kyle would like a six-to-twelve-month extension; and then enter into a new negotiated lease agreement. The Directors agreed.

19. Other – Kyle said the District may not hold a July meeting.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

20. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of May 2024 were reviewed.

21. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of May 2024. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.


Board Chair

7-12-24
Date


District Manager

7/12/2024
Date