



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
May 7th, 2020 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors Attending In Person:

Pat Voigt - Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Directors Attending Via Telephone Conference:

Joanne Keerins - Director
Phil St. Clair - Director

Staff Attending In Person:

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager
Tereasa Perkins – CREP Technician

Visitors Attending Via Telephone Conference:

Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council

Roger Ediger - Director

Rick Henslee - Director

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

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 April 2nd, 2020 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Kyle introduced those attending in person as well as those attending via telephone.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron provided information on upcoming deadlines for NRCS programs. RCPP and CSP general signup deadline is May 29th. Office staff are currently working on contract renewals. The CIG, Conservation Innovation Grant, deadline is June 29th. EQIP funding, with a deadline of June 5, will be available for animal mortality management plans as a result of impacts associated with the Coronavirus pandemic. Aaron stated he is not sure it will be needed in Oregon. The Southfork Watershed Council was recently awarded a \$1,700,000 RCPP grant for upland projects in the South Fork area to Dayville. Aaron stated the John Day field office is continuing to operate with one staff person physically present in the office at a time, with the remaining staff working from home.
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 – A representative was unable to attend.
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 – Amy reported Council staff is working from home and in the field as much as possible. The Council is very excited about receiving the RCPP grant. Activities that will be implemented with the RCPP funding include juniper removal, upland water developments, as well annual grass control and reseeding.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. Review of CREP Activities – Tereasa presented six new conservation plans and one renewal of CREP contracts in Baker and Grant County for the Directors review. Contracts will include juniper removal, fencing, and weed control.
22. SIA Update – Kyle stated he has been communicating with Maria regarding questions the District has with the SIA process. The District is challenged with how to explain it to landowners. ODA offered to give a demonstration on how the SIA remote evaluations are conducted. Kyle said he would like himself, Pat H. and a Director to view the demonstration. Pat V. said he would like to participate. In order to provide consistency, ODA has two staff members that conduct the remote evaluations across the state. Kyle has asked Maria if ODA had protocols for the selection of SIAs and was told they are in draft form but are not finalized and that she will look into providing that information to the District. Roger stated it seems to him that ODA has not had serious questions from SWCD's and landowners regarding the SIA process as it has been ongoing for six years and there are no protocols to provide. Discussion was held regarding the lack of protocols and information for landowners regarding ODA's SIA program. Pat V. stated he believes the Directors are in agreement that the inability of ODA to provide SIA protocols is unacceptable. Pat V. said Kyle has done a great job of keeping the Directors informed on the issue. Rick agreed.
23. Ritter Projects Update – Kyle reported the District received four quotes for contracting and materials to install the Ballance Creek pipeline. The total cost will be approximately \$18,000, mostly because of low pipe prices. Materials will be in next week and construction will start soon after.

The Twelve Mile project will be wrapped up soon. The District plans to submit the final report by the end of June.

24. Covid-19 Impacts on District Programs – Kyle reported District staff are working a normal schedule. Site tours for the four in-stream projects to be implemented this summer will be conducted Friday, May 8th. OWEB is expecting reduced revenue due to the shutdown of lottery machines. The District had several OWEB grants that were expected to be funded, which may not be the case now. Kyle stated he was concerned as one of the grants was to be cost share for the RCPP agreement. In the worst-case scenario, the District may have to resubmit the application. The McGirr project may have to be implemented in 2021 due to the slow response from permitting agencies.

Rick stated the District's staffing has been based on stable funding which is something we may not experience in the future. It is important as a board to stay informed and aware of potential issues. Pat V. agreed. Kyle said he has had a preliminary conversation with a long-term District funding source regarding future funding and will report more in the June meeting.

25. Other -

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

26. Weed Control – Matt was unable to attend but submitted a written report included in the Director's packet.
27. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors.

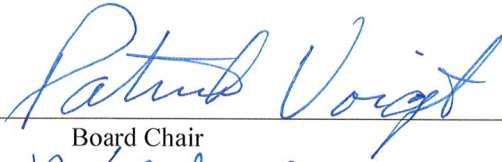
FINANCIAL BUSINESS

28. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of April 2020 were reviewed.
29. Approve Bills – Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of April, 2020. Phil gave the

second with the motion passing unanimously.

Pat stated he expects to be able to meet in the conference room for the June 4th meeting. Kyle will contact NRCS regarding the use of the conference room. Roger complimented Pat H. for the good job of capturing the conversations at the April meeting especially surrounding the SIA presentation.


The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.



Board Chair

6-4-20

Date



District Manager

6-5-2020

Date