



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  
June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 MEETING**

**Attendance**

**Directors Attending:**

Pat Voigt - Director  
Phil St. Clair – Director  
Rick Henslee – Director

Roger Ediger – Director  
Joanne Keerins - Director  
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

**Staff Attending:**

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

**Visitors:**

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service – via telephone

**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 May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors attending in person or by telephone.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Aaron reported the John Day Field office has received 22 RCPP applications for 2020, 11 – juniper and 11 forestry, totaling \$1,000,000. The staff will rank the applications received. Current funding levels will allow funding four of the applications. Aaron stated there is definitely a need for these types of projects and will look for additional funding sources. The deadline for the CSP Classic Program was last Friday. The staff will work through the applications in the next few months. Trent met with Teresa and signatures were obtained on three CREP contracts.

The NRCS protocol for Phase 1 reopening of field offices has been announced. Aaron will submit field office readiness for approval with a request to enter Phase 1 on Monday. At this time, it is expected to be 45 days before offices go back to pre Covid 19 schedules.

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 – Phil stated the staff has been busy working in the field or at home. The Council’s application for the Paycheck Protection Program and was approved. The staff is waiting to hear confirmation on several submitted OWEB grants as well as continuing to gather data for the Malheur Forest on the Bark Project. The Council continues to be very active and busy and are excited about the recently approved RCPP program.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

21. Proposed Future SWCD Programs – Kyle reviewed the draft Proposed Programs for 2021 – 2026. Kyle stated he had been giving quite a lot of thought to District Programs that would continue to serve the interests of Grant County landowners and play to the District’s strengths. The Proposed Programs were organized into three areas; Aquatic, Riparian and Upland and included a brief summary and potential funding and current partners. The Directors discussed the information provided and came to a consensus to continue work in the areas presented.
22. ODA SIA Update – Kyle stated he had a discussion with Valeen Madden, Executive Director of the North Fork Watershed Council, regarding Strategic Implementation Areas. She stated the Council supports the questions the District has asked and would like to learn more about SIA protocols.
23. Pat Voigt announced the meeting would take a five-minute break.
24. Employee Salary Adjustment Request – Kyle stated an employee has requested a review of their current salary to ensure it matches industry standards for the position and responsibilities. The Directors were provided information on similar position salaries. Discussion followed centering on several items including, will existing contracts accommodate an increase in salary and the possibility of the District incurring the liability of a higher salary if funding is reduced. Rick asked Kyle to provide a cost benefit analysis of the position. Kyle shared some pros and cons of maintaining the District Manager as the highest paid staff member. The Director discussed at great length salary issues. Pat V. stated this is a very important issue and suggested the Directors reflect on the information provided and be ready to discuss it again at the July meeting. The Directors agreed by consensus.
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. Shallow bedrock was unexpectedly encountered on the Ballance Creek project along 800 feet of pipeline. The bedrock prevented the pipe from being installed to the proper depth. This section of pipe was wrapped in foam insulation. Kyle attended a Joint Chiefs meeting. The consensus of the group was to postpone submitting an application for a year, in order to wait out issues surrounding the coronavirus in order to ensure a successful application.

Pat V. stated the Program Status Report and creativity shown in the Proposed Programs 2021-2026 includes great information and is very complete. Pat stated Kyle is doing a good job of keeping the Directors informed.


**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

28. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of May 2020 were reviewed.
29. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of May, 2020. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

  
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 Board Chair

7-2-20  
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 Date

  
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 District Manager

7-6-2020  
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 Date