



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
January 2nd, 2020 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

Pat Voigt
Joanne Keerins
Rick Henslee

Phil St. Clair
Roger Ediger

Staff:

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

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 December 5th, 2019 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors –There were no visitors in attendance that needed an introduction.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

Roger moved to elect Pat Voigt as Chairman, Phil St. Clair as Vice-Chair, and Roger Ediger as Secretary/Treasurer for the 2020 year. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously. Roger moved to reappoint as Associate Directors, Kristy St. Clair, Nick Stiner, and Ted Clausen. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

Roger asked Kyle to clarify information provided in Item 24 in the December 5th meeting minutes. Kyle confirmed he and Jason had received civil subpoenas to provide testimony regarding the validity of the water rights involved in the Larson water right cancellation issue. Kyle stated they hope to be able to participate via telephone. The District has engaged legal counsel who will be either a participant in the conference call or present in person if required. Kyle provided a review of the history of the Larson water rights issue.

REPORTS

5. NRCS –Aaron reported the 2020 Grant County Local Work Group meeting will be held February 11th from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Oregon Department of Forestry meeting room. The meeting is an opportunity for landowners to review performance of the past year's projects as well as provide comments on priorities for future projects. Aaron stated he felt in the past the Local Work Group has been mostly attended by agency partners and would like to increase landowner participation. As a result of the 2018 Farm Bill, NRCS is waiting for final changes and guidance on its programs, including EQIP, CSP, and CREP. Additional information is expected in the near future. Aaron stated he will be presenting the mandatory Civil Rights review and the 1619 Compliance Agreement to the District at its February meeting. Aaron handed out a NRCS news story highlighting the Northside Juniper Removal project. The four year project, which ended in 2019, improved mule deer habitat by providing landowner contracts to remove more than 8,000 acres of juniper and perform 7,000 acres of woody residue treatment. Pat Voigt was a participant and is featured in the story.
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 – Joanne reported the staff has been on vacation for most of the month of December.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. ODA Update– Pat complemented Kyle on the historical information provided regarding Oregon’s Ag Water Quality process and Pat H. for the great job of catching the discussion among the Directors on the ODA Strategic Implementation Areas. Kyle stated it was gathered from a review of past Local Advisory Committee minutes and Ag Water Quality statutes. He is relying on the Directors to provide their input. Does the information accurately reflect the Directors concerns? Discussion was held on the history of Ag Water Quality Management Plans. Kyle stated he plans to attend the Grant County Farm Bureau and Stockgrowers meetings to provide information on Oregon’s Ag Water Quality Management Plans and Strategic Implementation Areas. The Directors expressed concerns with the lack of data and question the basis for the selection of SIA’s in the John Day Basin. Kyle related his recent experience in researching water quality data on DEQ’s website which has caused him to question the accuracy of the data used. The Directors stated they believe a large number of landowners within the Grant County agricultural community are not fully informed of Oregon’s Agriculture Water Quality process and the inclusion of Strategic Implementation Areas. In the past, Oregon’s agricultural water quality program was complaint driven, however, ODA’s vision for SIAs will be a departure from this process. Joanne questioned how SIAs fit in with local Ag Water Quality Plans and is concerned the plan to increase SIA’s may be moving too quickly and will not allow an adequate time frame to measure results. Kyle said he will put together an informational sheet on the Ag Water Quality process and SIA’s for the Directors to review at the February meeting.
22. OACD Revised Articles of Incorporation – Kyle stated he was contacted by Jan Lee, OACD Executive Director, regarding revisions to OACD’s Articles of Incorporation. The original articles were incorporated in 1976, with every board member of every District who paid dues being a voting member. OACD has operated for the past few decades under bylaws that allow one vote for every District that paid dues, rather than every board member. OACD needs to “restate” the Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State in order to be consistent with the bylaws. The restated articles were developed by OACD’s Governance Committee. Roger expressed concerns with Article VII, and questioned what 501 (c) nonprofit corporations would be used. Kyle stated he forwarded Roger’s concerns to Jan, who said it was too late to change item VII, but that a specific corporation could be stated at a later date. **Joanne moved to approve OACD’s Restated Articles of Incorporation. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously with five votes in approval and no negative votes.**
23. Approval of 2018-19 Audit – Pat Holliday went over the District’s 2018-19 audit with the Directors. The Independent Auditors Report and Plan of Action for Grant Soil & Water Conservation District was handed out and reviewed by the Directors. Pat provided information on the District’s procedures to account for the lack of segregation of duties. **Joanne moved to approve Grant Soil & Water Conservation District’s 2018-19 audit. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously. Joanne moved to approve the Plan of Action for Grant Soil and Water Conservation District. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

24. Other –

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt reported he completed and submitted Grant County's 2020 Top 5 Priority Weeds Phase III grant application. ODA staff will meet in January to make recommendations on the grant applications with the State Weed Board making the final grant awards in February. The final report for noxious weed control implemented for BLM in 2019 was submitted and payment was received. Yearend maintenance on all the equipment has been completed. Phil asked Matt about the use of Esplanade on the Malheur Forest.

26. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors.

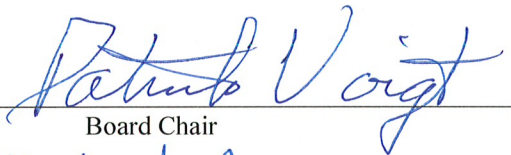
Kyle reported the District has received three applications for the Conservation Technician position. Applications will be taken until January 17th.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of December 2019 were reviewed.

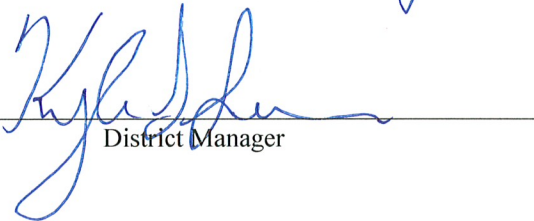
28. Approve Bills – Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of December 2019. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.



Board Chair

2-6-20
Date



District Manager

2-7-2020
Date