



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
March 2nd, 2017 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair - Director
Roger Ediger - Director
Rick Henslee - Director
Nick Stiner - Associate Director

Joanne Keerins - Director
Pat Voigt - Director
Ted Clausen - Associate Director

Staff:

Jason Kehrberg - District Manager

Pat Holliday - Program Assistant

Visitors:

Lorraine Vogt-Natural Resources Conservation Service

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order - Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes - Joanne moved to approve the February 2nd, 2017 meeting minutes. Phil 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 she attended a District Conservationist meeting the last two days. The group discussed the need for LIDAR data, which NRCS currently has funding available for. The 2017 Conservation Security Program (CSP) applications are in the process of being ranked. The John Day office received 11 CSP and 53 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications, which has overloaded the minimum office staff. The John Day office will receive a NRCS staff member on detail every two weeks to assist with the office work load. Lorraine stated she hopes to have a new staff member by August. She is continuing to work with the District on the RCPP contract.
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 gave the report in Amy's absence. The Council gave their annual update to the County Court. The Council has completed their annual employee evaluations, council self-assessment, and biennial work plan. The staff is anxious to get back in the field.
19. Monument SWCD – Bryan was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. New Director – Oath of Office - Roger gave the Oath of Office to Rick Henslee. **Joanne moved to change the title of the District's Treasurer to Secretary/Treasurer, currently held by Roger. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously. Roger abstained from voting.**
22. Board Resolution – 2017 Annual Meeting – Jason stated the District is required by Oregon Statute to set the date of its Annual Meeting by Resolution. **Joanne moved to approve the Resolution establishing the date of the District's 2017 Annual Meeting as April 6, 2017. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

Roger gave a review of HB 2859, which would have affected agricultural property taxes. The bill was removed from consideration after receiving tremendous negative input.

The District is sponsoring a House Bill which would make it easier for a landowner to move a point of diversion when addressing fish passage at their irrigation diversion. Presently, in order to move a point of diversion, a landowner has to go through an entire re-certification of their water rights, which can deter landowner participation and limits desirable engineering options. Mark Webb is assisting as well as OACD, who is the co-sponsor of the bill.

Jason reported Kyle, Levi, and Cole provided comments on a recent Division of State Lands hearing regarding a new permit process.

23. 2015-16 Audit Report - Pat Holliday reviewed the 2015-16 audit with the Directors. **Phil moved to approve Grant SWCD's 2015-16 audit. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
24. Other – Jason reported the District received a letter from the OR Department of Transportation stating sidewalks would be installed in 2019 on the east side, along Hwy 395, of the building. This will change how parking is done in front of the building.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS


25. Weed Control – Matt was not able to attend. Jason gave the report in Matt's absence. Matt attended the State Weed Board meeting held in Salem on February 9th and 10th. Grant Weed Control was awarded two grants; to treat Plumeless Thistle and Squarrose Knapweed and for treatment of Yellow Flag Iris. Matt also provided testimony in support of the OR Department of Agriculture budget and HB 2043. Matt and Tereasa also attended a meeting in La Grande sponsored by ODA for weed control entities to share program ideas and find ways to work together. The spray equipment is ready for the season.
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 work is continuing on the Larson and McHaley projects. Levi is working with OTEC to get electricity installed at the Larson project. The engineering staff has been working on the Fox Creek habitat project with designs 60% complete. A meeting will be held with Army Corp and Division of State Lands prior to applying for permits. The project is scheduled for construction in 2018. Levi is working on several designs on the Ricco diversions.
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. Currently, construction is being done on one fence project.

28. OWEB Grants – The status of the OWEB grants is in the Project Summary. The OWEB Review team ranked the two applications the District submitted in October, number 1 and 3. Final approval will be made at the OWEB Board meeting to be held in April. Jason is working on cooperative agreements with participating landowners located in the Ritter area to accomplish work through two OWEB grants awarded in October 2016.
29. Title II Program – The status of the Title II program is in the Project Summary. The required documents for the four Title II grants awarded in June have been submitted to the Forest Service.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

30. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of February 2017 were reviewed.
31. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of February 2017. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.


Board Chair

5-4-17
Date


District Manager

5/4/17
Date