



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
January 5, 2023 MEETING

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Rick Henslee – Director
Pat Voigt- Chairman
Phil St. Clair – Director via telephone

Roger Ediger – Director
Joanne Keerins – Director via telephone

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Deborah Arntz – Farm Service Agency

Maria Snodgrass – OR Dept. Agriculture
Shannon Wenick – Farm Service Agency

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Swearing-in of Re-elected Board Members – Roger Ediger and Joanne Keerins took the Oath of Office as Directors of Grant Soil and Water Conservation District.

2. Approval of Minutes – **Rick moved to approve the December 1st, 2022 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – No new visitors were in attendance.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron stated the Grant County Local Work Group meeting will be held in person on February 16, 2023 from 1:00 – 4:00 at the OR Dept. Forestry conference room. The meeting will provide an update on NRCS programs and provide participants an opportunity to help shape plans and priorities for future projects. Maureen Puffer, the new Soil Conservationist, began work in the John Day office on January 3rd. Unfortunately, the John Day office was not able to hire a forester position. The office is planning to hold a second Grant County Natural Resource Fair this spring to provide education and outreach to local landowners. The CSP Classic deadline will be in March 2023. Aaron handed out the most recent OR Drought map and snow pack report.

FSA – Deborah reported January 30th is the deadline for applications to be accepted for the 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). A second round of Emergency Relief Program (ERP) payments is being made to producers in Harney County who had losses in 2022. There will be additional ERP payments in the future for those with NAP coverage.

South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Phil stated the staff is busy working on office work during the winter months. The Council has a lot of project work lined up for the summer.

OR Dept. Agriculture – Maria reported the Agricultural Water Quality Support grant will be available again in 2023. She expects the application period to open in March. Scope Of Work grant applications are expected to be due in May. Oregon Department of Agriculture is in the process of filling several key positions; Rob Hibbs as Monitoring Specialist and Karen Stutzman as the SWCD Program Lead. Maria stated there are changes coming in the Ag Water Quality Management Plan area. DEQ will be revising multiple Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to make them consistent with current temperature standards. The John Day River Basin TMDL is on the list to be replaced. Maria will keep the District informed of any changes.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- 6. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported he and Nate attended the Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium. Matt gave a presentation on the Upper John Day Valley Landscape Resiliency Project that treated over 23,000 acres of annual grasses. The presentation was very well received with a lot of interest throughout the state. Plans are to hold another annual grass tour in June for NRCS personnel. Grant Weed will be doing noxious weed control on the Umatilla Forest in partnership with Monument SWCD as well as the roadside spraying for Wheeler County. Matt reported he ordered a new Ford pickup.
- 7. District Programs – Kyle stated the Program Status Report was included in the board packet. The District is waiting to hear from the OWEB review team regarding a grant application. Kyle would like to hold another work session, perhaps in February.

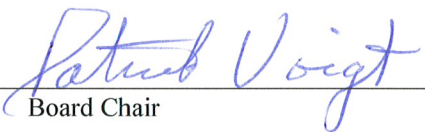
DISTRICT BUSINESS

- 8. Audit Approval - Pat Holliday reviewed the District’s 2021-22 audit, the Independent Auditors Report, and the Plan of Action with the Directors. **Roger moved to approve Grant Soil & Water Conservation District’s 2021-2022 audit and Plan of Action. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
- 9. Swearing-in of Re-elected Board Members – This item was completed after the meeting was called to order.
- 10. Other – Kyle stated the District and Weed Department recently purchased insulated mugs imprinted with logos. Kyle offered the Directors their choice of a mug.
- 11. Other –


FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- 12. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of December 2022 were reviewed.
- 13. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of December 2022. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.



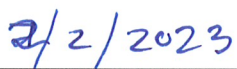
Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date