



## 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 February 1, 2024 Meeting

#### Attendance

##### Directors Attending:

Roger Ediger – Director  
Joanne Keerins – Director  
Rick Henslee – Director

Phil St. Clair – Director  
Pat Voigt - Director

##### Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager  
Matt Wenick – Grant Weed Control Coordinator

Neil Brooks – Engineering Technician  
Tyler Bales – Firewise Coordinator

##### Visitors:

Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council  
Hannah Smith – NRCS District Conservationist  
Chase Bloom – Malheur National Forest

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner  
Dustin Gustaveson – OR Dept. Forestry

#### 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 January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes. Phil St. Clair gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – Dustin Gustaveson introduced himself. He is the Unit Forester in the John Day office for the OR Department of Forestry.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

#### REPORTS

5. NRCS – Hannah provided an update on current NRCS programs.
6. FSA – A representative was unable to attend.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Amy provided an update on current projects. She reported in the last OWEB funding cycle seven of the eight applications submitted were funded. One is a project that will replace four culverts on the Malheur Forest, Grant SWCD will provide the engineering and design.
8. Malheur Forest – Chase provided a quick personnel update. He reported there is a possibility the amount of Title II funding that was originally thought to be available may not be. Staff are working on contracting agreements.
9. ODA – A representative was not able to attend.
10. Department of Environmental Quality – A representative was not able to attend.

## DISTRICT PROGRAMS

11. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported he and Nate recently completed their drone re-certification, with Tereasa and Tyler completing their certification. Matt, Tereasa and NRCS staff recently met with three landowners to discuss how each organization approaches annual grass treatments. Matt stated he is preparing for the 2024 OVMA Convention which will be held February 20 – 22<sup>nd</sup>.
12. District Programs – The Program Status Report was sent out in the Directors meeting packet. Kyle encouraged the Directors to contact him if they had any questions. Kyle reported the District is implementing new software for the District's e-mail. There may be opportunities to work with the Malheur Forest on additional projects.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

13. Tyler Bales – Firewise Presentation – Tyler provided a presentation on the Grant County Firewise Program. There are currently seven Firewise Communities in Grant County. A Firewise Community takes actions to mitigate risk, increase safety, protect property, amenities and natural resources; decreases dependence on emergency response to increase firefighter safety; and creates a neighborhood friendly community. The District currently has three funding sources to assist Firewise Communities, conduct outreach and education and aid in fuel reduction.
14. Appointment of Board Officers – **Rick moved to appoint Pat Voigt as Chairman, Phil St. Clair as Vice-Chairman and Roger Ediger as Secretary/Treasurer. Roger Ediger gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
15. Set Annual Meeting Date March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – **Joanne moved to approve a Board Resolution setting Grant SWCD's 2024 Annual Meeting date as March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Phil gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
16. Instream Water Right Applications Update – John Rowell provided an update on the instream water right application issue as it pertains to Grant County.
17. Grant County Air Quality Advisory Committee – Kyle provided information on the issue.
18. Associated Board Member Recruitment Update – The Open House Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the John Day Fire Hall from 3:00 – 5:00pm - Kyle stated he has been able to reach out to four possible Associate Board Member candidates and hopes to contact the remainder in the next week.
19. Other – Kyle reported HB 2805 requires training on public meeting laws for governing bodies. More information will be provided at a later date.

Kyle provided an update on a water right issue on Indian Creek.

## FINANCIAL BUSINESS

17. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of January 2024 were reviewed.
18. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of January 2024. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

  
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Board Chair

3-7-24  
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Date

  
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District Manager

3/7/2024  
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Date