



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
December 1, 2022 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

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner Elect

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – Roger moved to approve the November 3rd, 2022 meeting minutes. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – Pat introduced John Rowell, Grant County Commissioner Elect. John stated he is looking forward to working with the District in the future on natural resource issues affecting the County.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron stated Maureen Puffer, Soil Conservationist, is expected to begin her employment in the John Day office on January 3, 2023. Interviews have been conducted for the Forester position, however Aaron said he is not sure if the position in the John Day office will be filled. Interviews will be held next week to replace Lela's Soil Conservationist position. The staff is working on CSP renewals. Due to an increase in NRCS funding cost-share rates for 2023 will increase to 75/90. Currently cost share rates are 50/75.

FSA – A representative from FSA was unable to attend.

South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Amy was unable to attend.

OR Dept. Agriculture – Maria was unable to attend.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

6. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported the weather change resulted in the spray season ending sooner than expected. Matt will make a presentation, Grant Weed Control's Strategic Approach to Annual Grass Control, at the Inter-Agency Noxious Weed Symposium, to be held in Corvallis. The presentation will focus on the work accomplished through the Upper John Day Landscape Resiliency Program. Nate has been servicing and weatherizing the spray equipment. Matt reported he and Kyle attended the Resource Advisory Council (RAC), meeting held in Baker City on the 18th. Grant Weed Control partnered with the Malheur Forest and Harney County Weed Control to submit the Grant and Harney Invasive Weed Control application which was approved for \$255,799. Grant Weed Control's application to continue the 25% and 50% Noxious Weed Cost-Share Programs on private lands as well as noxious weed treatment on the Malheur Forest was approved for \$652,302.

Matt stated the 2001 Ford F-250 needs a new transmission, which is estimated to cost \$5,500. He is recommending to include it on the District's Surplus Equipment bid list with a \$3,500 minimum. Several years ago, the District paid for extensive engine repairs in Grant Weed Control's 2006 Dodge pickup.

Matt is recommending Grant Weed Control transfer ownership of the 2006 Dodge to the District. He is proposing Grant Weed Control purchase a new Ford pickup. Each year Ford has available a certain number of fleet-specific vehicles. Matt stated since Grant Weed Control hasn't bought a new vehicle in two years, he is not sure he will be able to get one. It may take up to six months or not until into 2024. Rick encouraged Matt to make sure he had the equipment ready to accomplish the work he has lined up. **Rick moved to approve Grant Weed Control's purchase of a new pickup. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

Matt stated Grant Weed Control and the District submitted a Community Wildfire Defense grant application. If approved, the grant will fund the purchase of a new pickup spray unit, with Grant Weed Control providing the pickup as part of the grant cost-share. The pickup will serve as a second right-of-way truck and will increase the efficiency of road side spraying. It will also enable Grant Weed Control to accomplish brushing along Forest Service roads. Matt said if the grant is approved, Grant Weed Control will need to buy a new pickup to place the spray unit on. **Rick moved to approve the purchase of a pickup to place a spray unit on, contingent upon the approval of the Community Wildfire Defense grant. Joanne gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**

Matt said plans are also to place the Rome disc and John Deere 3 Bottom plow on the Surplus Equipment Bid List along with the 2001 Ford. The items will be advertised on the District's website and in the Blue Mt. Eagle. The Directors agreed by consensus.

7. District Programs – Kyle stated the Program Status Report was included in the board packet. The District has been advertising for an Engineer Technician to backfill Jason's position. Applications will be taken until Friday, December 2nd. As of today, none have been received. Kyle said the District will continue to advertise the position until filled.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

8. Disposal of District-owned equipment – This item was addressed in item 6, Grant Weed Control's report.

At 4:50 pm Pat Voigt stated the meeting would go into a ten-minute recess.

9. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(i) – At 5:00 pm Pat Voigt stated the meeting would go into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(i).

At 5:20 pm Pat Voigt declared the meeting back into regular session.

10. Salary/Incentives Review and Discussion – **Rick moved to approve the recommended 2023 Cost of Living Adjustment and 2022 Incentive Payments for staff. Roger gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
11. Other – Kyle stated he would like to honor Jason's over 22 years with the District by holding a dinner in his honor for Board members, staff and former employees and their spouses. Discussion was held and it was decided to hold the dinner on Thursday, January 5th after the regular Board meeting. Kyle said he would like to have a photographer there to take photos of those attending.
12. Other –

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

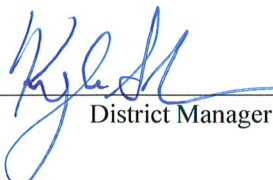
13. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of November 2022 were reviewed.
14. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of November 2022. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.


Board Chair

1-5-23

Date


District Manager

1-5-2023

Date