



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
February 6th, 2020 MEETING

Attendance

Directors:

Pat Voigt
Joanne Keerins
Rick Henslee
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Phil St. Clair
Roger Ediger
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

Staff:

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes - Pat Voigt stated he would like to add a correction to the January minutes, under Item 21, ODA Update. At the January meeting he complimented Pat Holliday for the great job of recording the discussion among the Directors on the ODA Strategic Implementation Areas. He would like this included in the minutes. **Roger moved to approve the January 2nd, 2020 meeting minutes with the correction noted. Rick 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.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron complimented Matt and Nate on a great job of remodeling the conference room. He reported his office is still waiting on EQIP and CSP 2020 deadlines. The Local Work Group will meet February 10th at the OR Dept. Forestry meeting room. Aaron stated he encourages the Directors to attend and provide input for areas in the County they would like NRCS to focus on. He reviewed the Civil Rights and SWCD Districts information with the Directors. The Directors asked for definitions of several phrases used. The Section 1619 Compliance document, which deals with compliance on landowner privacy issues, was reviewed. Aaron said he expects as a new District Conservationist, to have a compliance review this spring or early summer.
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 for Amy as she had to leave the meeting. The Council submitted three grant applications to OWEB and is preparing for the 2020 project season.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

21. ODA Update – Kyle reported he and Pat H. attended the Grant County Stockgrowers and Grant County Farm Bureau meetings to provide information regarding the upcoming changes to Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. Plans are to post the material from ODA regarding the 2019-2021 Implementation Process for Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) as well as a Memorandum from the District stating the Directors concerns with the SIA Program on the District's website. The Directors reviewed the Memorandum. Pat V. said he felt Kyle captured the Director's concerns very well. Roger said Kyle did an outstanding job in his presentation at the Farm Bureau meeting and agreed the Memorandum expressed the District's concerns, without dodging the hard questions and clearly states the assertive position the Directors have taken. Rick, Phil and Joanne agreed. The Directors requested copies of the information to share with their neighbors. The District will put together an informational packet to hand out. Kyle stated the implementation of SIAs will affect many landowners in Grant County, those with small and large acreages, and it is important to communicate the information to as many people as possible. He would like to make a presentation to the County Court, meet with the Blue Mt. Eagle and KJDY through the Coffee Time program. Pat V. suggested a Director also attend each event. Pat V. and Rick stated they would like to attend the County Court meeting and Roger said he would be at the Coffee Time program. Any time after 11:00am would work best for the Director's schedules.
22. Other - Kyle presented a Board Resolution establishing the time and date for the District's 2020 Annual Meeting. **Phil moved to approve the resolution setting Grant SWCD's 2020 Annual Meeting on March 5th at 6:00 pm at the Grant County Regional Airport. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
23. Other – Kyle reported the District received five applications for the Conservation Technician position. Plans are to interview the top three applicants within the next ten days. The applicants have a variety of past experience including agriculture, financial investment, natural resources as well as forestry. Kyle stated he is looking for a person that has the adaptability to learn new skills and will fit in with the diverse atmosphere in the office.
24. Other – Kyle provided an update on the Larson water right cancellation hearing. He and Jason did not have to go to Eugene to provide testimony at the hearing. Kyle was able, with the District's attorney's approval, to provide testimony by telephone. Kyle said his testimony went well; however, he was frustrated that he did not have the ability to prepare in advance for the questions asked. Gordon Larson, who was present at the hearing, stopped by the office and provided information regarding the hearing. Gordon stated the judge should have a decision by the end of February. Kyle said the circumstances with the Larson project has impacted how the District will deal with projects requiring water right transfers in the future.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

25. Weed Control – Matt reported he and Nate have been remodeling the conference room. He has been working with the Malheur Forest on an OISC Outreach and Education grant application. Plans are to have a booth at the Grant County Fair that will provide noxious weed information and education and to conduct outreach with test plots on annual grasses on the new bicycle trail in John Day. Matt has been working with BLM contacts to change from a yearly contract to a three-year agreement. An agreement will give BLM more flexibility to add additional funds as they become available and removes the \$25,000 funding limit associated with a contract. Grant Weed Control will request \$148,000 for a three-year agreement. Matt and Nate have been taking inventory of all the equipment and parts needed to fix breakdowns and prevent downtime in order to be ready for the 2020 spray season.
26. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of January 2020 were reviewed.
28. Approve Bills– Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of January 2020. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.



Board Chair

4-2-20

Date



District Manager

4-17-2020

Date