



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  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 MEETING

**Attendance**

**Directors:**

Joanne Keerins - Director  
Roger Ediger – Director  
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

Pat Voigt - Director  
Rick Henslee - Director

**Staff:**

Kyle Sullivan - District Manager  
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant  
Nate Hughes – Weed Control Technician

**Visitors:**

No visitors were in attendance.

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes - Rick moved to approve the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – Matt introduced Nate Hughes, the new Noxious Weed Control Program Conservation Technician. Nate started with the District on August 19<sup>th</sup> and has passed all the tests required to obtain a public pesticide applicator license. The Directors each introduced themselves. Nate stated he has been working in the building maintenance field for the last ten years and is excited to begin working in a new career. He looks forward to learning about weed control and likes the fast pace of the work and getting things done. Pat stated the Directors are glad to have Nate as part of the District.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – There was not a representative in attendance.
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 – In Hannah’s absence Joanne gave the report. Council staff are finishing up the field season and preparing to submit OWEB applications. The Council will also be submitting a RCPP application for watershed health practices, such as juniper removal, upland water, vegetation establishment and irrigation practices.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

21. Revised Public Records Information Request Policy – Kyle explained the District’s insurance carrier, Special Districts, through their Best Practices Program, provides a discount on general and auto liability, and property insurance premiums for participants. For 2019, one of the requirements was an update to participant’s Public Records Policy. Kyle reviewed the few changes from the District’s current policy to the proposed new policy. Pat noted several typographical errors. **Joanne moved to approve the updated Grant SWCD Public Records Information Request Policy, dated October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, with the noted corrections. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
22. Policy on Overhead for Projects with University Researchers – Kyle stated the District is planning to submit an OWEB grant application later this month to support a Washington State University Researcher to develop a computer model to predict increases in streamflow resulting from juniper removal and conifer thinning. The model will be used to support the District’s Blue Mt. Vegetative Health Initiative Program. Overhead rates charged by universities in general tend to be very high, usually between 40 and 50%. However, the researcher stated if the Board would adopt a policy limiting Washington State University to 10% overhead, the University would not charge an amount exceeding that number. **Rick moved to approve the Policy on Overhead for Projects with University Researchers. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
23. Other – Kyle reviewed the Strategic Implementation Areas 2019-21 Implementation Process Partner Overview with the Directors. Roger asked the Directors how they felt the District should address the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) issue, particularly why there was not a stakeholder representative organization, such as the Oregon Farm Bureau or Oregon Cattleman’s Association, included in the SIA partnership. He felt it was important for landowners to have representation in the SIA Partnership. The Directors agreed by consensus to direct Kyle to write a letter asking why no stakeholders are involved in the SIA partnership, with a copy sent to Lynne Findley and Cliff Bentz. The Directors stated in the past the District has taken a strong position of representing landowners and needs to continue. Rick expressed his concern with the SIA process and the lack of stakeholder participation.
24. Other – Kyle reported several District employees have been contacted by an Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter regarding the Larson Irrigation Reorganization Project. Kyle gave a review of the water right transfer process involved in the Larson Irrigation Project.

**DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

25. Weed Control – Matt reported fall treatments for Yellow Starthistle through the Grazing Lands 25% cost-share program have begun. Staff has been treating Leafy Spurge in partnership with Monument SWCD. BLM herbicide treatments have been completed in Wheeler County with treatments to continue in Grant County. Matt recently met with two different chemical manufacturers to assist with advertisement, weed and treatment photos and provide input on several new products that will be coming out in the future. Matt said it was a productive meeting with the potential of partnering with herbicide test sites in the future. Noxious weed control has been accomplished in Fox Valley for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and will continue next spring. Matt informed the Directors of the Oregon Fine Fuels Management Day to be held Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> in Harney County.
26. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the written report with the Directors.

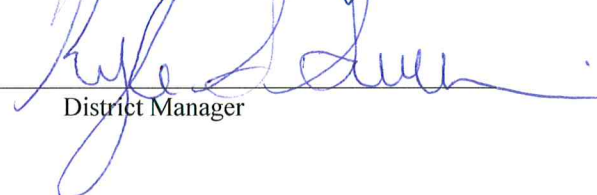
**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of September 2019 were reviewed.
28. Approve Bills – **Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of September 2019. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

  
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 Board Chair

11-7-19  
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 Date

  
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 District Manager

11-7-2019  
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 Date