



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
September 2, 2021 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Phil St. Clair – Director
Rick Henslee – Director - Telephone
Joanne Keerins – Director

Roger Ediger - Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

Staff Attending:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager - Telephone

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Phil called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – Joanne moved to approve the July 1, 2021 meeting minutes. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors that required an introduction.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron provided the most recent US Drought Monitor for Oregon. The staff has been busy with CSP year-end activities.

FSA – Emma Gabriel, Harney/Grant Farm Service Agency County Executive Director – Emma was unable to attend.

South Fork Council – Amy was unable to attend. Joanne read the report Amy provided. RCPP sign-ups for Lower South Fork landowners is ongoing, with a November deadline. A stakeholder engagement event will be held in the future to show landowners and contractors what types of projects will be eligible as well as the NRCS requirements. The SF John Day Watershed Forestry Partnership has begun implementation of pre-commercial thinning to improve forest health on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area. Data collection efforts for the Malheur Forest Bark project are wrapping up. Training is continuing for drone flights. Mussel relocation for the Murderers Creek Riparian Restoration Project will begin next week. This is a huge effort with 30 volunteers locally and from across the state. The Council is beginning implementation of the Good Neighbor Authority Grant with the BLM working on Aspen, upland water, and forest health. Field work will begin in September. The Council is contracting with the Middle Fork IMW to conduct macroinvertebrate sampling on the South Fork John Day River.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

6. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported noxious weed treatment has been ongoing and will continue on BLM and Malheur Forest lands. Matt has been working on scheduling speakers for the annual OVMA conference to be held October 5 – 7 in Seaside Oregon. Matt, Nate and Neil will all attend. The Rejuvra applications have been completed. A total of 4,550 acres was treated for annual grasses using Rejuvra as well as 332 acres of Scotch thistle. Matt provided the Directors with a spreadsheet showing the total number of acres treated, funding sources and participating landowners. Matt stated it was a great project and he hopes to be able to offer annual grass treatment again in 2022.
7. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the Project Status Report included in the board packet.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

8. Associate Board Members – Kyle stated the expansion of the District's Associate Directors has been on his mind for quite a while. He has a tremendous amount of respect for each Director and feels the manner which the Grant SWCD Board operates is worthy of emulation by future Boards. He feels the time is right to begin a discussion regarding bringing on additional Associate Directors so

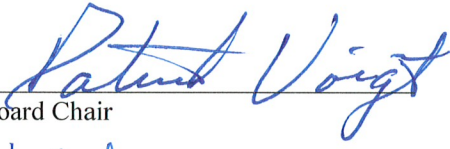
they can contribute to the District as well as learn from the existing Board. The Directors agreed the addition of Associate Directors would be beneficial to the District and would like to discuss the issue further in the future.

9. ODA Strategic Implementation Areas Update – Kyle reminded the Directors Stephanie Page and Marganne Allen, of ODA, will be visiting the District between Sept. 22 – 24th. Kyle plans to meet with them in the office first and go over what the District has achieved in the last few decades and discuss what ODA feels is limiting water quality in our basin. A site visit to the DEQ long term monitoring location at the Hwy 26 bridge and the John Day River will be next on the agenda. Kyle plans to meet up with Amy Stiner, South Fork Watershed Council, to look at a project or two along the South Fork as well as give her an opportunity to share her concern. Kyle stated he would love to have a Director attend part or all of the visit.
10. River Democracy Act of 2021 Town Hall Meeting Update – Kyle stated Ron Wyden hosted a virtual town hall meeting on August 31st to provide information on the River Democracy Act of 2021 to rural Oregon. Kyle watched the meeting which **did** not provide any new information on the Act.
11. Other – The District will hold a Director's tour of the McGirr Fish Passage and Habitat Project in lieu of the regular October meeting. The project tour will begin at the office at 2:00 with a carpool to Fox. We plan to be back for dinner, provided by the District, at the Snaffle Bit at 5:00.
12. Other – The plaque honoring Ken Delano is in production and is expected to arrive by September 24th. Kyle stated he is thinking of having the ceremony to honor Ken sometime in October or November.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

12. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of July and August 2021 were reviewed.
13. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of July and August 2021. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.



Board Chair

11-4-21

Date



District Manager

11-4-2021

Date