



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
June 5, 2025 Meeting

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Roger Ediger – Director	Phil St. Clair – Director
Rick Henslee – Director	Joanne Keerins - Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director	Pat Voigt - Chairman
Alec Oliver – Associate Director – via telephone	

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager	Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator	

Visitors:

Brent Smith – OR Dept. Agriculture	Didgette McCracken
Hannah Smith – Natural Resources Conservation Service	Jennifer Bush – Malheur Forest
Nathan Adelman – Natural Resources Conservation Service	Brandon Ferguson – OR Dept. Forestry
John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner	

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Phil moved to approve the May 1, 2025, meeting minutes with the correction noted. Roger gave the second. Roger Ediger, Rick Henslee, Joanne Keerins, Phil St. Clair and Pat Voigt voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors to introduce.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Hannah stated there is nothing to report as the staff is busy with current agreements.
6. FSA – A representative was unable to attend.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Phil and Joanne reported Council staff are working on current projects and reports.
8. Malheur Forest – Jennifer reported the Malheur Forest is currently in a holding pattern with the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision. The Forest is working on timber and fire recovery and is also downsizing in personnel. The Title II program recently approved approximately \$1,000,000 of funding for a variety of projects.
9. ODA – Brent presented a 2025 ODA – SWCD Cooperator Award to the District for its work in Community Wildfire Response. Brent stated the award recognized exceptional work protecting natural resources and was also

given to Wheeler, Monument and Gilliam SWCDs. District Capacity Grants for 2025-27 were submitted last month using a new online application process. The online method will allow for a more efficient reporting process in the future. The Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan has completed the full review.

10. OR State Forestry – Brandon reported the 2025 fire season will begin on June 2nd. OR Dept. Forestry’s seasonal workforce will begin work on June 9th. He stated the John Day office will have a full forestry staff with Marc Desjardin stepping in as District Forester. Regulated Use Closures (RUCs) for the Central Oregon District are scheduled to begin on June 16th. Discussion followed on expected fire conditions this summer and funding of wildfire costs.
11. OR Dept. Environmental Quality – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

12. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported broadleaf weed treatment is ongoing. Staff will be conducting weed control along the John Day River for BLM June 9 -12. A new agreement has been received from the Malheur Forest to conduct noxious weed control in areas affected by 2024 wildfires. Grant Weed Control hosted a tour on June 3rd to highlight the annual grass program, forestry work and installation of beaver dam analogues. There was a good turnout with 65 people attending. Attendees were complimentary of the work the landowners had done.
13. 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. Roy Walker, Southern Blues Partnership Coordinator, will be leaving the District the end of the week. Kyle said Roy has done a great job of laying the foundation for the Southern Blues Partnership. Kyle wants to ensure the District has adequate funding for the future prior to replacing the position. He will be looking for someone with federal forest experience. The District will be applying for funding through BLM’s Good Neighbor Authority to rebuild existing spring developments located on federal lands. The CREP application for 2026-27 is due in July. The District has been informed its BOR General Task Order passed the second DOGE review. The agreement funds District activity to bring a project from conception to 15% design and is an important funding source.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

14. Pat Holliday Retirement – Kyle stated Pat announced she would be retiring from the District effective November 28, 2025. Kyle has written an updated job description for the position and will advertise it soon.
15. Audit Engagement Letter Review – Pat Holliday stated the Audit Engagement Letter is an agreement between the District and Solutions CPAs. The letter needs to be agreed upon by the Directors. **Phil moved to acknowledge and agree to the provisions of the Audit Engagement Letter. Roger gave the second. Phil St. Clair, Roger Ediger, Rick Henslee, Joanne Keerins and Pat Voigt voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**
16. Other – Kyle reported he had been subpoenaed to testify in a case involving a diversion the District installed years ago located on Indian Creek.
17. Other – Discussion was held on the potential timeline of receiving the electromagnetic survey results. How the future ODA monitoring plan will be implemented was discussed.

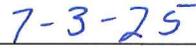
FINANCIAL BUSINESS

18. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of May 2025 were reviewed by the Directors.
19. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of May 2025. Phil gave the second. Rick Henslee, Phil St. Clair, Roger Ediger, Pat Voigt and Joanne Keerins voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.



Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date