



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
June 6th, 2019 MEETING**

Attendance

Directors:

Phil St. Clair – Director
Pat Voigt - Director
Rick Henslee - Director

Staff:

Jason Kehrberg - District Manager

Visitors:

Amy Stiner – South Fork Watershed Council

Joanne Keerins - Director
Roger Ediger – Director
Ted Clausen – Associate Director

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Hannah Latzo – 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 - Roger moved to approve the May 2nd, 2019 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – No visitors were in attendance.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – A representative was unable to attend.
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 – Amy Stiner introduced Hannah Latzo, the newly hired Program Assistant. Hannah stated she is originally from Pennsylvania with work experience in Alaska. She moved to Grant County to work for OR Dept. Fish & Wildlife. Each of the Directors introduced themselves. Amy reported the Council staff is gearing up to start the field season which will include working with the Bark Project.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.

20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- 21. District Manager Search Update–Jason reported the application period for the District Manager position closed on **May 24th** with five applications being received. He expects the Directors will set up a timeline for interviews and a hiring date in the Executive Session to be held later tonight.
- 22. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2) (a) – To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent -
- 23. Other – The Directors agreed by consensus to hold the July meeting on July 11th as the regular meeting date falls on July 4th.
- 24. Other –

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- 25. Weed Control – Matt was unable to attend as he was floating the John Day River treating noxious weeds for BLM. The written report submitted is attached to the minutes.
- 26. District Programs – Jason reported there is a possibility all clearances will not be received in time for the 2019 instream projects to be implemented. As a result of reduced technical staff capacity, the remaining design updates and technical reviews to complete BPA’s Habitat Improvement Project Programmatic Permit consultation process for the McGirr Fox Creek Passage and Habitat Project are not expected to be accomplished until later this summer, necessitating the postponement of the instream portion of the project until 2020. At this time plans are to implement the stockwater portion of the project this fall. The water right transfers required to implement the Hall and John Day River Diversion Projects continue to work through the administrative review process. The 30 day public comment period following the transfer approval is threatening the ability of this project to be implemented this year. The Bradford and Diversion Diversion Projects are waiting for ODFW fish passage review approval. The ever increasing complex permitting process required for project implementation has once again created considerable timing uncertainty. The spring sign-up period for the Blue Mountains Vegetation Health Initiative ended on April 19th, with 21 applications accepted. Kyle has been ranking the applications. The high percentage of beginning farmer and veteran farmer applicants, which qualify for a 50% higher cost-share award, significantly impacted the funding available. A total of five contracts will be offered to perform forest thinning on approximately 400 acres. Jason reported an issue arose with the Focus Investment Program Grant (FIP) and the regular OWEB grant program concerning an OWEB grant application the District submitted to implement riparian fencing. The FIP grant will be approved which means the Desolation fence, located in the North Fork, has to be funded through the FIP grant program and not the regular OWEB grant program. The District, in partnership with ODFW, will be assisting with the installation of a culvert on Summit Creek, a tributary of the Middle Fork, located on the Malheur Forest. The application period for the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant recently opened. Jason stated he is working on an application to fund a feasibility analysis to implement active aquifer recharge and recovery projects within Grant County. Final applications are due in mid-July.

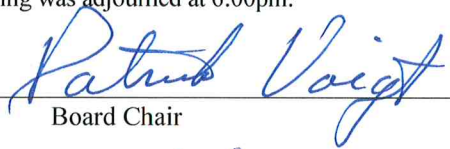
At 4:30 Pat Voigt stated the meeting would have a 10 minute break after which it would go into Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2) (a).

At 5:55 pm Pat Voigt declared the meeting was now in open session.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

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


The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.



Board Chair

8-1-19

Date



District Manager

8/1/2019

Date