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**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**  
**April 3, 2025 Meeting**

**Attendance**

**Directors Attending:**

Roger Ediger – Director  
Rick Henslee – Director  
Dustin Kreger – Associate Director

Phil St. Clair – Director  
Joanne Keerins - Director

**Staff Attending:**

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager  
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

**Visitors:**

Andrea Kreiner - OACD - telephone  
Sara Ugalde – Farm Service Agency  
Jennifer Bush - Malheur National Forest  
Hannah Smith – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Tom Straughan – OACD - telephone  
John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner  
Chase Blume – Malheur National Forest

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Phil St. Clair called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Roger moved to approve the March 6, 2025, meeting minutes. Rick gave the second. Roger Ediger, Rick Henslee, Joanne Keerins and Phil St. Clair voted yes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Andrea Kriener, Executive Director of OR Association of Conservation Districts, introduced herself. She stated she looks forward to working with the District.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Hannah stated the office will issue twelve contracts with funding available from the Joint Chiefs Program. Plans are to apply for additional funding through the program in the future. Eight contracts were issued for disaster relief associated with wildfire damage. Hannah said Jonathan Boyd is back in the office.
6. FSA – Sara stated she is the Harney/Grant County Executive Director Trainee. She had worked for FSA for four years prior to accepting the position as County Executive Director. She will be in the John Day office every Thursday. The Harney and Grant offices are currently working with landowners affected by wildfire in 2024. There has been \$14,000,000 of funding approved to assist with fences destroyed in the wildfires in Grant and Harney County. The Emergency Conservation Program, ECP, will provide funding to assist with damages due to flooding in Harney County.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Phil and Joanne reported Council staff are working on current projects.

8. Malheur Forest – Chase Blume, Prairie City District Ranger, reported he met with Kyle and Cole regarding ways the District and Malheur Forest can work together. The Forest has had staff return to working in the office as they try to manage through these uncertain times. Staff are working on getting contracts through the system for restoration work associated with the 2024 fires. Jennifer Bush stated Forest Plan public meetings will hopefully be held in a few months.
9. ODA – Brent Smith was unable to attend.
10. OR State Forestry – A representative was unable to attend.
11. OR Dept. Environmental Quality – A representative was unable to attend.

Grant County Court – John Rowell stated the OR Department Forestry Zone 1 land classification has become an issue, as it may be eliminated.

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

12. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported right-of-way treatment has begun on roads in Wheeler and Grant Counties. Bare ground treatment on private lands has also started. Kyle and Matt attended a meeting regarding the Rangeland Analysis Platform, a computer modeling program, which can be used to quantify Rejuvra treatment areas. It has the potential to be a good tool to use to quantify the reduction in annual grasses. Grant County has done some of the only large-scale treatment of annual grasses in the west.
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. Kyle reported that the District has been notified by Bureau of Reclamation that some of its contracts may be cut. Bureau of Reclamation geophysics are processing the information gathered through the Airborne Electromagnetic survey. The District will hold a public meeting to share the results.

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

14. Presentation of the Audit – Kyle stated copies of the District’s 2023-24 audit are available at the office.
15. Discussion of Applying Late Fees to Bills – Kyle stated the District needs to have a policy to deal with late payment of invoices for services provided. It is important that the policy be fair to all. Discussion was held on various components of a late payment policy. Kyle stated he will research the issue and put together a policy for the Directors to review at the May meeting.
16. Review of 2024 District Programs – Kyle reviewed the report on 2024 activities with the Directors. He stated, with the exception of the contract with SkyTem, a Canadian company, and Leading Edge Aviation, most of the contracts issued in 2024 were awarded to local contractors.

Projected Impacts of Paused Federal Funding on District Operations – Kyle stated he and Pat are tracking the District’s Account Receivables particularly in regard to federal funding. The District plans to put out several fence contracts this summer. The District will continue to monitor the situation with federal payments.

#### **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

17. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of March 2025 were reviewed by the Directors. Pat stated the issue with the incorrect Accounts Receivable balance has been corrected.
18. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of March 2025. Roger gave the second. Rick Henslee, Phil St. Clair, Roger Ediger, and Joanne Keerins voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

  
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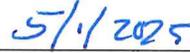
Board Chair

  
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Date

  
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District Manager

  
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Date