



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
February 3rd, 2022 MEETING

Attendance

Directors Attending:

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

Roger Ediger - Director
Pat Voigt - Director

Staff Attending:

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant
Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Shannon Bruebaker – Farm Service Agency

Emma Gabriel – Farm Service Agency

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Roger moved to approve the January 6th, 2022 meeting minutes. Joanne 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 an update on covid numbers in the county. The office is currently closed with no visitors allowed; however, this may change as covid numbers do. The office staff is currently working on EQIP and RCPP contracts. The 2022 Local Work Group meeting will be held February 16th via zoom. Signups for the CSP Classic program will be taken until March 18th. Aaron handed out the snow pack report and drought monitor as of Jan 25, 2022.

FSA – Emma Gabriel, Harney/Grant Farm Service Agency County Executive Director – Emma reported FSA will be offering a new program in 2022 following a two-phased process to provide assistance to livestock and crop producers. The first phase will use livestock numbers producers provided from May 2021 for the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program. The second phase will provide assistance to eligible producers who did not participate in the 2021 program. The deadline for 2022 crop insurance acreage reports is March 15. Grant County producers who had Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2021 qualified for a grazing loss payment.

South Fork Council – Joanne stated the staff is making plans for upcoming summer projects.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

6. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported Matt, Nate, Pat and Jason attended Wilbur Ellis' virtual recertification courses to maintain their pesticide licenses. Matt and Nate have been monitoring road right-of-ways and gravel pits for timing of roadside residual treatments. Monitoring has shown it will be several more weeks before treatment can begin. Advertisement for the 25% Cost Share Grazing Lands Invasive Annual Grass Management project will begin in the Blue Mt. Eagle February 9th with applications being taken until March 11th. Matt reported he and Nate have been studying, took and passed the test required for the Part 107 drone license. Matt reported that due to supply issues he was not able to order the NorthStar Polaris Ranger that was approved at the December 2021 meeting. He was able to order a similar side-by-side ATV and expects to receive the unit in mid-June.

Matt and Kyle reported the District was notified that the Upper John Day Valley Landscape Resiliency Project application was successful and funded for \$1,679,808. The project, funded by Senate Bill 762, focuses on fine fuels reduction and includes

CONSERVATION - DEVELOPMENT - SELF GOVERNMENT

surveying areas to determine eligibility for treatment of annual grasses, treating approximately 22,000 acres of annual grasses, and conducting an assessment of forest and range conditions on 40,000 acres. Matt has begun contacting aerial applicators regarding their availability. The Directors discussed the potential for future funding partners.

Kyle stated the District will hold its 2022 Annual Meeting on May 18th focusing on annual grass control. Representatives from Bayer Crop Science including; Kent Pittard-Western Sales Representative, Justin Hossfeld, Western Range Segment Manager and Harry Quicke, Regional Stewardship and Development Manager will make informational presentations. Plans are to hold a tour the day after the meeting of two Rejuvra test sites; one in the John Day Valley and one in the Long Creek area. Aaron stated NRCS staff is very interested in Grant Weed Control's annual grass treatment program. Several NRCS personnel will be attending the Annual Meeting and the test site tour.

- 7. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the Project Status Report included in the board packet. Staff are working on future project designs. Work has accelerated on the Belshaw Creek project and the landowners are supportive of the current design. Engineering services on the 10 Road Relocation pProject will be completed by the June 30th deadline. Neil has recently sent out information on the CREP program to 163 landowners.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- 8. NRCS: Civil Rights Review – Aaron provided a presentation on Civil Rights and SWCD Districts. The presentation included information on Program Delivery, Participation, Accessibility, Complaint Process and the benefits of Board Diversity.
- 9. Hwy 395 Sidewalk Project Update – Kyle provided an update on the Highway 395 ODOT sidewalk project and handed out to the Directors a folder with information on the issue. He stated he felt the Directors needed to review the agreements and information provided by the attorney themselves. Kyle reviewed the expenses incurred to date.
- 10. All Staff/District Board Work Session – Kyle reviewed the draft agenda for the February 9th Work Session. He stated he is looking forward to hearing the Director's input at the meeting. Kyle asked the Directors besides themselves and District staff, if there were any others they would like to invite to the work session. The Directors suggested Ken Delano, John Morris and Gary Wilson.
- 11. Other – Kyle stated he has talked to Marganne Allen and suggested she make her site visit to Grant County in conjunction with the District's Annual Meeting.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

- 12. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of January 2022 were reviewed.
- 13. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of January 2022. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.



Board Chair



Date



District Manager



Date