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**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**  
**January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 MEETING**

**Attendance**

**Directors:**

Phil St. Clair – Director  
Pat Voigt – Director  
Nick Stiner – Associate Director

Joanne Keerins - Director  
Roger Ediger – Director  
Rick Henslee - Director

**Staff:**

Jason Kehrberg - District Manager  
Matt Wenick – Grant Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

**Visitors:**

Lorraine Vogt – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Maria Snodgrass – OR Dept. Agriculture (via phone)

Amy Stiner – Upper South Fork Watershed Council  
Hannah Maers - Natural Resources Conservation Service

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Phil St. Clair gave the Oath of Office to Joanne Keerins and Roger Ediger, who were re-elected as Directors in the November election. **Joanne nominated Pat Voigt as Chairman, Phil St. Clair as Vice-Chairman and Roger Ediger, as Secretary-Treasure of the Board of Directors for Grant Soil & Water Conservation District. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously. Joanne moved to re-appoint Nick Stiner, Ted Clausen, and Kristy St. Clair as Associate Directors. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

2. Approval of Minutes - Roger moved to approve the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors in attendance.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Lorraine introduced Hannah Maers, the new Soil Conservationist for the John Day office. Hannah is originally from Mt. Hood and attended OR State University in La Grande. She has worked for Wilbur Ellis and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Lorraine stated she will have a snow report next month. The 2019 Local Work Group meeting will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the OR Department of Forestry meeting room. She has been wrapping up CSP payments that will be made in January 2019. In partnership with the District, a second informational flyer was sent out to area landowners to participate in the RCPP program. Signups will be taken until March 15<sup>th</sup>, with resulting contracts to be issued by August. Lorraine announced she has accepted a position as Area Resource Conservationist with NRCS in Missoula Montana. She is not sure of the time frame of her departure, but expects it to be late winter or early spring. Her position will not be advertised until she has left. It is a possibility that an acting District Conservationist will be assigned until the position is filled permanently.
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 – Maria reported the 2019 Biennial Review of the Upper Mainstem and South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan will be held January 30, 2019 from 3:30 to 6:00pm at the OR Dept. of Forestry conference room. There will be time on the agenda to discuss water quality strategies.
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 stated work is continuing on several juniper removal projects. She has busy setting up items that were previously taken care of by the Council's fiscal sponsor. Amy stated the Council obtaining a 501(c)(3) status will be a tremendous benefit.
19. Monument SWCD – A representative was unable to attend.
20. OWEB – A representative was unable to attend.

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

21. Board Member Oath of Office, Officer Elections, and Associated Director Appointments – This item was taken care of in Item 1, after the meeting was called to order.
22. Financial Management Policy  
Jason stated one of the recommendations that resulted from the Board Practices Assessment sponsored by Special Districts was to create a written financial policy. Jason reviewed the policy with Directors. **Phil moved to approve Grant SWCD's Financial Management Policy. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
23. Annual Meeting – Jason asked the Directors to consider having Phil Brown make a presentation at the District's 2019 Annual Meeting. Phil is a consulting hydrogeologist with over 30 years of experience in groundwater modeling, applied aquifer storage and recovery projects and ground water supply development, and water resource planning within the Pacific Northwest. The Directors agreed by consensus to have Phil Brown make a presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting to be held in March or April.
24. Other – Jason stated a copy of the District's 2017 – 2018 Annual Report is included in their notebooks. The Report was not completed in time to be sent out with the meeting packets. A flyer highlighting the Big Creek Mine Reclamation Project, put together by the Malheur National Forest, was handed out. Information from the flyer was also printed in the Blue Mt. Eagle.

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

25. Weed Control – Matt reviewed the Weed Department's 2018 accomplishments from the Annual Report. A grant to treat the Top 5 Priority Weeds of Grant County was submitted to ODA. Grant Weed also partnered on two other grants that were submitted. Grant Weed will again apply residual treatment to the roadsides for Wheeler County and will be partnering with Monument SWCD to treat Leafy spurge along Fox Creek. Matt and Shane attended the Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium in Corvallis. At the Symposium, Matt received special recognition for "his contribution and leadership in Oregon noxious weed management." Matt was asked to be part of a stakeholder group that will assist in writing a permanent Administrative Rule for the use of Aminocyclopyrachlor. Matt reported a lot of work is being done in the bio-control field with promising treatments for Houndstongue, Yellow Starthistle, and White Top.
26. District Programs – Jason reported the engineering staff is working on finishing the designs for Phase II of the Ricco diversions. Plans are to implement all four diversions this summer. The staff is coordinating with BPA and

the Tribes on changes to the McGirr Diversion design. Staff is developing a design to replace a culvert road crossing on Summit Creek for the Malheur National Forest. Jason reported work is ongoing on several fence projects and the CREP program is continuing to meet with interested landowners.

The Upper Mainstem & South Fork John Day River Agricultural Water Quality Plan biennial review will be held Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 6:00 at the OR Dept. Forestry conference room.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

27. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of December 2018 were reviewed.
28. Approve Bills – Roger moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of December 2018. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

  
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Board Chair

2-7-19  
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Date

  
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District Manager

2/7/19  
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Date