



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
September 1, 2022 MEETING

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Rick Henslee – via telephone
Pat Voigt
Joanne Keerins

Phil St. Clair
Ted Clausen

Staff Attending:

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager

Neal Brooks – CREP Technician

Visitors:

Aaron Roth – Natural Resources Conservation Service

ADMINISTRATION

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – Joanne moved to approve the July 7th, 2022 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors to introduce.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Aaron provided a staffing update; the ODF/NRCS Forester position may be filled and Hannah's old position has been flown. The staff is finalizing CSP contracts. NRCS is expecting an increase in program funding as the Inflation Reduction Act allocated an additional 20 billion dollars to NRCS.

FSA – A representative from FSA was unable to attend.

South Fork John Day Watershed Council – A representative from the Watershed Council was unable to attend.

DEQ – Don Butcher – Don was unable to attend.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

6. Grant Weed Control – Matt provided a written report stating just under 27,000 acres were aerially treated with Rejuvra for annual grass control. This included 23,000 acres treated with funding provided through OR Dept. Forestry Upper John Day Valley Landscape Resiliency Project and 4,000 acres treated with cost-share funding provided by a Malheur Forest Title II agreement and landowner contributions. An additional 100 acres Rejuvra ground work will be completed in the next several weeks. Bayer's film crew was in Grant County the week of August 15th and completed their landowner interviews for the Story Map.
7. District Programs – Kyle reviewed the Project Status Report included in the board packet. Grant opportunities for the District continue to become available. Cole has been working with Mark Croghan on a list of potential projects to be funded through the District's Bureau of Reclamation agreement.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

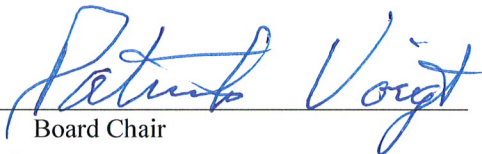
8. Neil Brooks, CREP Renewals and Signature – Neil provided the Conservation Plan of Operation for the renewal of Jim Dovenberg's Bridge Creek CREP contract.

9. Annual Workplan 2022-2023 - Kyle and the Directors reviewed the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Work Plan July 2022 – June 2023. Kyle stated the Rapid Forestry Assessment is progressing well. Kyle would like to put on a workshop for landowners after the Assessment is complete.
10. Aaron Roth, CRP Grasslands Program Overview – Aaron reported four landowners signed up for the new CRP Grasslands Program. The program provides a 10-to-15-year contract with increased rental rates.
11. Draft ODA-DEQ Memorandum of Agreement – Kyle presented the Draft Memorandum of Agreement between OR Dept. Agriculture and OR Dept. Environmental Quality Collaboration on Achieving Water Quality Goals Relating to Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution. Kyle stated he had done an extensive comparison of the Draft Agreement and the previous agreement between ODA and DEQ. Several wording changes indicate to him that the new draft Memorandum of Agreement has changed to more of an enforcement activity instead of an advisory plan. The Directors discussed the changes in the Draft Agreement. **Pat Voigt moved to have the District submit comments to OR Dept. Agriculture, OR Dept. Environmental Quality, and the Grant County Court addressing the concerns Grant SWCD has with the draft Memorandum of Agreement. Joanne gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**
12. Other –

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

13. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of July and August 2022 were reviewed.
14. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of July and August 2022. Joanne gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.



Board Chair

10-5-22
Date



District Manager

10-5-2022
Date