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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**  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting**

**Attendance**

**Directors Attending:**

Roger Ediger – Director  
Pat Voigt - Chairman  
Rick Henslee – Director

Phil St. Clair – Director – via telephone  
Joanne Keerins – Director – via telephone

**Staff Attending:**

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager  
Matt Wenick – Grant Weed Control Coordinator

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

**Visitors:**

Sally Christensen – Blue Mt. District Ranger, Malheur Forest  
John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner

**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 November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – There were no visitors that needed introduction.
3. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – A NRCS representative was unable to attend.
6. FSA – A representative was unable to attend.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Joanne reported the staff is working on new OWEB grant applications and going on site visits as well as virtual site visits. The Council submitted two restoration and three technical assistance grant applications. The staff is also completing reporting requirements for existing grants.
8. Malheur Forest – Sally stated she had no major items to report. She wanted to attend in order to be available to answer any questions. Forest staff is busy with grant agreements as well as getting ready for the 2024 field season. Kyle reported he has met with Malheur Forest staff in a Joint Chiefs meeting and that good progress is being made.
9. ODA – A representative was unable to attend.

**DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

10. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported he has been busy completing reporting requirements as well as working with

partners to plan next spring's work. Next week he will submit an OR Dept. of Agriculture grant for Grant County Top 5 Priority Weeds. Nate is researching the requirements to get licensed to apply seed with a drone. The weed department plans to purchase a seeder to go on the UTV in order to expand the seeding program. Maintenance has been completed on all the equipment. The Vale District Bureau of Land Management will provide a spray unit to the weed department that will be installed on a pick up. Matt is working with BLM on an agreement that will provide the mechanism to accomplish this. Matt and Tereasa attended the Wheeler SWCD Annual Meeting and made a presentation on the annual grass treatments the District accomplished in 2022 and 2023. There were 84 people in attendance.

11. 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 stated he and Tyler will be giving a presentation to the County Court regarding allocating Firewise funding to the District.

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

At 4:45 Pat Voigt stated the meeting would go into a 10 minutes recess after which the meeting would go into Executive Session.

12. Executive Session – ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Pat stated this item would be moved to follow Agenda Item #13.
13. Other – Kyle stated the John Day Valley has instream water rights filed by OR Dept. Fish and Wildlife and OR Dept. of State Parks from 1962 to 1990. The issue of instream water rights was put on hold in the late 1990's. The issue has come up again with several more streams listed to file instream water rights on. John Rowell stated he had been contacted by ODFW regarding the issue. John is researching the issue with Eric Julsrud, District-04, Watermaster. John stated he does not want to see any landowner lose any part of their water right. He would like to see the Grant County Court do all it can to protect water rights in the county. Pat asked the Directors if they were interested in leading an effort to oppose the filing of instream water rights. Rick stated he needs to become more informed on the issue. Phil stated the issue will require a strong push back from landowners and feels the District should be involved. Joanne agreed. Pat stated the issue will be on the agenda at the Natural Resource Advisory Committee meeting to be held Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be a good place to begin providing education on the issue. The Directors agreed by consensus for the District to be actively involved in the issue.

At 4:55 Pat Voigt stated the meeting would go into executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(i).

At 5:40pm Pat Voigt declared the meeting back into regular session.

14. Salary/Incentives Review and Discussion – **Phil moved to approve the recommended 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment, salary increases and 2023 Incentive Payments for staff. Joanne gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

15. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of November 2023 were reviewed.
16. Approve Bills – **Joanne moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of November 2023. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm.

*Rick Henderson*

Board Chair

*1/4/24*

Date

*[Signature]*

District Manager

*1-4-2024*

Date

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