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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**  
**October 3, 2024 Meeting**

**Attendance**

**Directors Attending:**

Roger Ediger – Director  
Phil St. Clair – Director – Telephone  
Rick Henslee - Director

Pat Voigt – Director  
Joanne Keerins – Director – Telephone

**Staff Attending:**

Kyle Sullivan – District Manager  
Neil Brooks – Engineering Technician

Matt Wenick – Weed Control Coordinator

**Visitors:**

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner  
Didget McCracken – OSU Extension  
Trea Nance – OR Dept. Environmental Quality – Telephone

Hannah Smith – NRCS – Telephone  
Brent Smith – OR Dept. Agriculture  
Chase Bloom – Malheur Forest

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Pat Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Joanne moved to approve the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Pat welcomed the visitors attending in person and by telephone.
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

**REPORTS**

5. NRCS – Hannah reported NRCS has \$2,000,000 available to assist landowners affected by the recent wildfires. Additional funding is expected.
6. FSA – A representative was unable to attend.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – A representative was unable to attend.
8. Malheur Forest – Chase provided a recap on the summer fire activity. The Forest is currently conducting an inventory of damaged assets lost, such as miles of fence. Discussion followed on the challenges the Forest will face going forward.
9. ODA – Brent Smith introduced himself as the new OR Dept. Agriculture Water Quality Specialist for the John Day Basin Region. He complimented the District for the outstanding work it has done in the past and are continuing to do.
10. Department of Environmental Quality – Trea provided an update on the Implementation Plan process.

11. OR Dept. Forestry – A representative was unable to attend.

**DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

12. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported approximately 22,000 acres of annual grasses have been aerially treated. Due to the flight restrictions from the Rail Ridge fire, the contractor has left Grant County and is working on other projects. Plans are to continue the aerial spraying as soon as the restrictions are lifted, around the first week of October. Matt provided an update on complaints regarding the aerial spraying. He has met with multiple landowners affected by the recent fires interested in seeding those areas. He is communicating with seed vendors and the helicopter contractor to put together a seeding program to be implemented this fall or winter.
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. He provided an update on the AEM survey currently being conducted. Kyle stated he recently met with Brent Smith in his new role as Water Quality Specialist with OR Department of Agriculture; and looks forward to working with him. The District was asked by Eric Bush, Grant County Emergency Management Coordinator, to assist with gathering information on fire related damage affecting private lands.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

14. Budget 2024/2025 – Kyle presented the District’s 2024-25 Budget. **Pat moved to approve Grant SWCD’s 2024-25 budget. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

15. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the months of July, August and September 2024 were reviewed.
16. Approve Bills – **Pat moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the months of July, August, and September 2024. Rick gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

  
Board Chair

11-7-24  
Date

  
District Manager

11/7/2024  
Date