



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
July 6, 2023 Meeting

Attendance

Directors Attending:

Roger Ediger – Director
Pat Voigt- Chairman

Phil St. Clair – Director
Rick Henslee - Director

Staff Attending:

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

Pat Holliday – Program Assistant

Visitors:

Emma Gabriel– Farm Service Agency
Shannon Wenick – Farm Service Agency
Chase Bloom – Prairie City Ranger District
Lindsey Davies – Malheur Forest - telephone

John Rowell – Grant County Commissioner
Stephanie Rice – Natural Resource Conservation Service
Chris Paul – OR State Fire Marshal's Office

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 June 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Phil gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**
3. Introduction of Visitors – Pat introduced Chase Bloom, Malheur Forest Prairie City Ranger District
4. Public Input – There was no public input.

REPORTS

5. NRCS – Stephanie reported Tereasa Perkins last day with NRCS was Friday, June 30th. She has taken a job with Grant SWCD. A tentative offer has been made to someone to fill Lela's position. The staff has been busy finalizing documents for several programs, including RCPP contracts. Stephanie handed out the current OR Drought monitor map. The map shows the majority of Grant County is a D1 Moderate Drought.
6. FSA – Emma reported the Grant/Harney CED position has been posted. The position is only open to current Farm Service Agency employees with a background in programs. The Harney office has two new employees, who be in the John Day office weekly to receive training from Shannon. The deadline for turning in acreage reports is July 15. The office is working on gathering data required to assist producers with losses associated with severe winter storms. Producers who have NAP coverage need to file a notice of crop loss within 15 days of the loss.
7. South Fork John Day Watershed Council – Phil reported the staff is busy with summer projects.
8. Malheur Forest – Lindsey Davies, Malheur National Forest Natural Resource and Planning Officer – Lindsey provided an update on several new positions recently hired on the Malheur Forest. The Forest anticipates quite a bit of aquatic work to be accomplished this summer. Lindsay is working with Cole on several priority diversions. Chase Bloom stated the Forest is emphasizing a hiring effort for entry positions. The Murderers Creek Wild Horse ESA is out for public comment, opening on June 14th for a 30-day comment period.
9. Chris Paul – State Fire Marshal's Office – Chris stated he has been working with Irene Jerome, Firewise communities and local fire and emergency department. He is looking forward to working with the District to accomplish work through the State Fire Marshal's grant it recently received. He explained several funding opportunities available to assist Firewise communities and municipalities with the purchase of fire vehicle engines and staff. He will be working with Firewise communities to discover what is truly needed to accomplish on the ground work as well as tell the story of the work completed with the provided funding.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

10. Grant Weed Control – Matt reported the staff has been busy with broadleaf treatments on BLM, Malheur Forest and private lands. Funding will be available for all 24 applicants for the 2023 25% Cost-Share Grazing Lands Invasive Annual Grass Management Project. Treatment is planned to occur the end of August or first part of September. It will take approximately 2 – 3 weeks to obtain the Rejuvra needed. The new ATV was picked up last week and the Ford 350 will be picked up soon in Burns. Matt and Nate completed 10 days of Leafy Spurge treatment for BLM on the John Day River. Treatment covered approximately 120 river miles, including some on private land located on the river. Grant Weed Control is working with Monument SWCD to treat Leafy Spurge which includes the release of bio-control agents in the Fox area. An Annual Grass Tour was held with approximately 50 people attending. Great discussion was held between attendees. Drought conditions in 2021 resulted in poor results for many of the Rejuvra treatments. ENVU is going to warranty these treatments and will cover the cost of herbicide and aerial application. Matt is in the process of meeting with landowners who had property treated in 2021.
11. District Programs – Kyle stated the Program Status Report was included in the Board packet. The OR Dept. Forestry Landscape Resiliency Project was completed the end of June. The project treated 23,100 acres for invasive annual grasses, completed a Rapid Assessment Inventory of forest and range conditions on 40,000 acres of private land and developed a Storymap highlighting the efforts and accomplishments of this and other related efforts. Tereasa Perkins started with the District July 5th. She will assume responsibilities of the CREP program this fall and Neil will transition to the Engineering Technician position.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

12. Auditor's Questionnaire – Kyle explained the audit questionnaire is a requirement for Directors as being members of a governing body.
13. ODOT Sidewalk Status – The District's attorney informed Kyle the OR Dept. of Transportation will be issuing the District a settlement. There is a low place in the front of the parking lot where a drain is not working. The District has been told it will be repaired.
14. Rapid Assessment – Kyle showed an example of the completed assessment packets, through the OR Dept. Forestry Landscape Resiliency Project, that will be mailed to participating landowners. The assessment packet, put together by District staff, will be an essential tool to aid landowners in applying for funding to accomplish forestry thinning.
15. South Fork Watershed Council Boundary Expansion – Kyle stated there is no watershed council located in the upper John Day Watershed. It is one of the only areas not being covered by a watershed council in the state. Several years ago, the North Fork Watershed Council started the process of moving their boundaries to include the area, but did not complete it. The issue has come up again, with the South Fork Watershed Council discussing expanding their boundaries into the upper John Day Watershed. The issue is being pushed from the Network of Oregon watershed councils, OWEB and the John Day Basin Partnership. Discussion was held on the issue.
16. Other –

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

17. Financial Report/Financial Summary – Financial reports for the month of June 2023 were reviewed.
18. Approve Bills – **Phil moved to approve the bills and financial reports for the month of June 2023. Roger gave the second with the motion passing unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.


Board Chair

9-7-23
Date


District Manager

9/7/2023
Date