

**Minutes of the meeting for the  
South Fork John Day River Watershed Council**

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm, by Joanne Keerins at the Izee Schoolhouse in Izee, Oregon.

In attendance for regular session:

Joanne Keerins, Chair, Keerins Ranch	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair, Rocking 9 Ranch	Richard Nelson, Director, Izee Ranch	Scott Hess, Director, Jackass Creek Ranch	Amy Charette, Director, CTWSRO. Called in	Amy Stiner, SFJDWC
Ty Callicotte, Landowner in Izee area					

Quorum was present because there are currently 7 directors on the board and 5 were represented at this meeting.

**I. Action Items**

- a. May Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve the May meeting minutes as mailed, Scott 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed unanimously
- b. Staff Time: May: Phil moved to approve staff time for Amy and Elise for the month of May, Richard 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed unanimously
- c. Staff Check Requests: Richard moves to approve the check requests from Amy and Elise, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed unanimously
- d. Check Request for Sheep Creek Juniper Removal by Brad Browning: Phil moves to approve, Scott 2<sup>nds</sup>, Richard abstains, motion passed unanimously
- e. Amended By-Laws and Operating Policies & Procedures: Jason and M.T. approved electronically, so we have received unanimous approval, and the motion to approve the By-Laws and Operating Policies & Procedures has passed unanimously.

**II. Agency Reports**

- a. **Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO):** They are working on getting all of their planting projects ready and going for fall planting, their field crew is working on plant maintenance. CTWSRO secured OWEB outreach funding to support the Grant County Natural Resource camp during the end of June.

**III. Staff Report**

- a. Meetings/Trainings
  - i. John Day Basin Partnership Meeting (JDBP): The Partnership is looking at different programs to help prioritize project areas in the John Day Basin. After numerous presentations, and information gathering the Partnership has decided to use the ATLAS program to assist in project prioritization.
  - ii. Energy Efficiency Meeting with Lee Rahr of Sustainable Northwest, and Basin Partners. Elise reached out to the Energy program coordinator, Lee Rahr, regarding opportunities for Energy efficiency in the John Day Basin. Lee has assisted in establishing an energy efficiency, and irrigation efficiency program in the Klamath Basin, and is looking to expand what they have learned, and would like to explore similar opportunities for the John Day Basin. Richard commented that he is implementing similar ground water measuring for his property in the Klamath Basin.
  - iii. OWEB site tours: We hosted site tours for the Izee Allotment Improvements, and the Snow Mountain Ranch improvements. The tours were very positive, and we appreciated Micah Wilson’s time joining us on the tour.
  - iv. Trout Unlimited: Amy met with Levi Old, Trout Unlimited Representative for Northeast Oregon. Levi was meeting with John Day Basin partners to see where Trout Unlimited could be of assistance. Phil expressed interest in visiting with Trout Unlimited, regarding their priorities, where they work, and how

they work. The Board discussed past Trout Unlimited experiences, and would appreciate more information. Scott Hess stated that Trout Unlimited was a more project oriented, sportsman's group, not a governmental entity.

- b. Outreach/Education
  - i. Summer youth hire to assist on the Juvenile Chinook Monitoring Project: OSU has hired Marissa Smith to assist in the Juvenile Chinook monitoring for this summer.
  - ii. Grant County Natural Resource Camp will be held June 26<sup>th</sup>- Elise will be chaperoning.
- c. Ongoing Projects
  - i. Weeds:
    - 1. Musk & Scotch Thistle Sign-ups: through the end of June
    - 2. Knapweed, Musk, & Whitetop: Continuation from last year's treatments. Amy will assess the timeline and possibly ask for extension due to all the rain.
    - 3. Phil contacted biocontrol specialist, Joey Milan, and reported that the white top biocontrol is working through APHIS, and they are hopeful they will be approved this year. He stated that the Upper South Fork is not the highest priority for whitetop, but we're in the running. He also reported that the Hound's tongue biocontrol may still be a possibility. Richard stated that the sooner they can release the biocontrol the better, rather than waiting until Fall. He stated that it is better for the biocontrols to have a couple reproductive cycles before needing to overwinter.
  - ii. Fish Passage Inventory: Jeff Neal is working on inventorying barriers in the Murderers Creek watershed.
  - iii. Juvenile Chinook Monitoring: Amy and Elise are assisting the OSU graduate student in monitoring juvenile chinook throughout the entire John Day Basin, from the Natal Rearing reaches around Prairie City, all the way down to the Downstream rearing reaches near Dayville. SFJDWC is performing landowner contacts, and assists in field work. Amy S. explained that many landowners have expressed their discontent with ODFW and fisheries research occurring in the Basin, and is concerned that this research is causing a bad reputation for the Council. Joanne felt that this would pass, and the Council will maintain a good reputation. Scott asked what other monitoring was occurring in our watershed. Amy and Phil explained that the monitoring tends to be opportunistic, and more project based, with Photopoint monitoring, water temperature monitors, genetic sampling of resident trout, and occasional bioassessments when funding can be secured.
  - iv. Sheep Creek Restoration: Brad Browning has completed an additional 220 acres of Juniper Removal, and Cody Cole plans to finish the Buck and Pole fencing beginning in June.
  - v. Dry Soda: The Dry Soda Aspen protective fence, spring development, and road re-alignment has been completed.
  - vi. Izee Allotment, Spoon Creek Fence is complete, and we are waiting on Emigrant Creek Ranger District employees for assistance in flagging the Outhouse Spring protective fence.
  - vii. Riparian Re-vegetation: Ash Creek Forest Management will be completing a re-treatment of the Reed Canary Grass starting June 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - viii. Farm to School: Elise and the SFJDWC were honored at the Humbolt School Awards Assembly and Schoolboard meeting
- d. Project Proposals, In-Progress
  - i. Woodward Property Improvements, Amy is meeting with Brent Woodward June 14<sup>th</sup> to tour the property and develop a plan.
  - ii. Johnson Creek Juniper
  - iii. Murderers Creek Allotment Springs
  - iv. Caribou Pasture Enhancements, will consist of juniper removal, timber stand enhancement, and pre-commercial thinning. Amy plans to submit an application for funding to the Collins Foundation, with a follow up to OWEB
  - v. Aldrich Allotment Enhancements
  - vi. Widows Creek Ranch Enhancements, Amy is meeting with Jim Dovenberg toward the end of June to tour the property and develop a plan.
  - vii. St. Clair & Izee Ranch Cooperative Water Development
  - viii. Izee & Inshallah Cooperative Water Development

#### **IV. Discussion**

- a. 501 (c) 3 status and update, Scott would like to wait and see if we might qualify for the IRS form 1023-EZ, rather than the full 1023 form, which is much more intensive. He was going to make some inquiries and report back. Amy stated that her goal was to have forms completed and submitted early in the 2017-2019 biennium.
- b. Phil discussed the ATLAS program with Amy C., and expressed concern over the SFJDW being a low priority. Amy C. explained that we are working to also prioritize uplands. Richard expressed that we have a pristine watershed, that is well-cared for, and is concerned about taking certain funds, and the restrictions/regulations that go with those funds.
- c. Phil commented on the notes from the John Day Basin Partnership meeting, and the amount of process the group is working through at this point, with the Action Plan, outreach plan, prioritization tools. He expressed concern that there's more talking, meetings, and process, than work getting done. He understands the goal is to leverage large pools of money, but would like to see the group getting more constructive work done.

**V. Coming Up**

- a. ODA Agricultural Water Quality, Local Advisory Committee Meeting, June 6. Phil and Joanne gave an update and overview on the Local Advisory Committee, and ODAs focus watersheds.
- b. Oregon State Weed Board Meeting, Prineville, OR: June 28-29
- c. Juniper Logging Efficiency Workshop, Prineville, OR: June 28
- d. Network of Oregon Watershed Council Board Meeting, Roseburg, OR: July 13-14
- e. August 7-8<sup>th</sup>, BDA training in Wheeler County. Richard requested more information on this workshop, to be able to pass along to contractors working on his Beaver Creek restoration efforts.
- f. Oregon Department of Agriculture, Maria Snodgrass, informative presentation on ODA's Focus Areas, and their role in water quality. SFJDWC August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**VI. Joanne Adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm, the next meeting date is July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**