

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 9th day of April 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 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	Micah Wilson, Alternate Director, Izee Ranch	M.T. Anderson, Inshallah, High Desert Cattle, Secretary/Treasurer	Justin Rodgers, Prineville BLM & Associate Director	Jeff Maben, Private LO, SNW, Rockpile Ranch
Kirk Ausland, ODF	Hester Mallonee, Prineville BLM	Pam Powell, ODFW habitat	Amy Stiner, SFJDWC Coordinator		

Quorum was present because there are currently 7 directors on the board and 4 were represented at this meeting.

I. Action Items

- a. March Meeting Minutes: Phil moves to approve as mailed, Micah 2nd, motion passed unanimous
- b. March Staff Time: Phil moved to approve staff time as presented, Micah 2nd, motion passed unanimous
- c. Staff Reimbursement Requests: M.T. moves to accept as presented, Phil 2nd, motion passed unanimous
- d. Izee/St. Clair Cooperative Water Development Landowner Agreement: Phil and Micah abstained, M.T. moved to approve, Joanne 2nd, M.T. and Joanne vote to approve, electronic consent will be required
- e. Inshallah Aspen Landowner Agreement: M.T. abstained, Phil moved to approve, Micah 2nd, 3 present voted in favor, electronic consent will be required.
- f. Woodward Property Enhancement Landowner Agreement, M.T. moved to approve, Phil 2nd, motion passed unanimous
- g. ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area Cooperative Agreement for Flat Creek Juniper Removal: Phil moved to approve, Micah 2nd, motion passed unanimous.

II. Agency Reports

- a. **Justin Rodgers, Pineville BLM:** The are finishing up the fence contracts on Murderers Creek and state land after the South Fork Fire, 50 miles of fence burned in fire. They are working jointly with the state, and have 12 miles left. They are working on the Forest boundaries first. The Wildhorse management plan will be out for comment soon. Soliciting public input for possible actions. The agencies/BLM have the appropriate level of NEPA to catch nuisance horses. Nuisance horses require the landowner to put in writing that they have nuisance horses. Until they get national direction they can't take them off range anymore. FS and BLM got together to get management plan put together for general management on herds. FS is lead on management plan. Any horses coming off territory are 68% FS 32% BLM. The Horse and Burro act charges both agencies responsible to managing to certain AMLs. They will be flying for wild horse counts, May 9th-11th. The group discussed data collection on BLM for Wind Creek, and they continue to work on permit renewals.
- b. Kirk Ausland, ODF, nothing new to report
- c. Jeff Maben, Sustainable Northwest; They had some juniper posts turned, he brought an example. Had it turned out of Wallowa. Juniper last longer in ground, will depend on heartwood, and removing the bark.
- d. Pam Powell, ODFW Fish Habitat; Russ Powell is talking with Dan Marvin and Brent Smith for options to address the Tex Creek dry stream channel. They have Wind creek on their list for riparian fencing for 2019. Pam suggested that the Rockpile Ranch get Russ on site to look at Wind creek and their portion of the South Fork John Day. Working on getting sampling from South Fork of Murderers Creek for barrier DNA on steelhead vs. Redband. Pam reported that on the riparian fences they installed in the Murderers Creek Watershed, they are losing a lot of powder river gates, 8 missing so far, so they are letting everyone know, and following up on any leads.

III. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates Project tracking spreadsheet, and funding strategy are attached in your board packets
 - i. Open Projects
 1. Weed control
 2. Fish Passage Barrier Inventory
 3. Rapid Riparian Reveg
 4. IZ allotment
 5. Flat Ck

6. BDA workshops
7. LiDAR
- ii. Grant Reports for March
 1. Oregon Federal Forest Restoration (OFFR) Program Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) for the Bark Project Area
Elise was successful in securing \$43,670 to assist the Malheur National Forest with a WRAP, which will provide data collection for NEPA clearance in the Bark Project Area. These funds will largely go toward Elise and my time to assist in data collection in Range, Aquatics, Timber, and Wildlife in the Murderers Creek/Deer Creek Watersheds. The Forest Service will then use this data to guide their NEPA planning and future project work. This is a result of the CRMP group.
 2. Oregon State Weed Board, Crook County & South Fork John Day Cooperative Musk and Scotch thistle treatment
We have funds again this year to supply herbicide for the treatment of Musk and Scotch thistle. The landowners would be responsible for applying the chemical. Matt Wenick is also available to provide the treatment if the landowners would like.
 3. OWRD Water Project Grants: Flat Creek Watershed Enhancement
I am working with ODFW to re-submit a grant application to Oregon Water Resources Department to refurbish the Aldrich Ponds, and update the irrigation system in Flat Creek, on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area, in the Lower South Fork.
 4. OWEB
 - a. Spring Applications: Wind Creek Restoration Assessment, Magic Lantern Upland Improvements, Murderers Creek Water Developments, Tex Creek Design, and Bark Restoration Assessment.
- iii. Partnerships/Outreach/Education
 1. Candle Making during Spring Break in participation with the Community Passport to Fun Spring Break Activities: Elise reported that there was great community turnout for the event, which was organized by Peggy Murphy. The number of kids and parents was over 100, and participating community organizations/activities included Chamber of Commerce, Grant County Historical Museum, Kam Wah Chung Visitor Center, or the Ranch and Rodeo Museum, Canyon City Community Center, Candle Making, Legos, Arts and Crafts, Tools Old and New, Games of the 1800s, and a Gold Mining demonstration. There is an article with Elise in the Blue Mtn Eagle.
 2. Grant SWCD Annual Meeting: Juniper and its impact on the water budget: overall disappointment in the data presented. The Council would be interested in another juniper presentation from Tim Deboodt, or John Buckhouse.
 3. Farm to School: Dayville School Garden, & Stiner Ranch
- iv. Financial Update
With the funds that Elise has been able to secure through the OFFR program, we are looking much better as far as staff funding. I attached a spreadsheet in the board packets.

IV. Discussion

V. Coming Up

- a. Grant SWCD Annual Meeting, April 3rd, 6:00 pm, at the Grant County Regional Airport. Ryan Niemeyer, will be presenting the results of his PhD research concerning the effects of juniper on the water budget.
- b. Farm to School to Dayville School for School Garden: May 4th.
- c. Bark Planning Meeting, May 17th
- d. Sunflower AMP Planning Meeting, April 10th
- e. BLM Planning Meeting, April 10th

VI. Adjourned at 2:36, Next meeting date: May 14th, 2018.