

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 10th day of December 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:

Phil St. Clair	Joanne Keerins	Jeff Maben	Amy Stiner	Scott Hess	Micah Wilson
Anna Smith, BLM Hydrologist	M.T. Anderson				

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

I. Action Items

- a. November Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve as mailed, Micah 2nd, vote passed
- b. November Staff Time: December time will be the last submitted to Cascade Pacific. Phil moved to approve the November staff time as mailed, Scott 2nd, vote passed
- c. Staff Reimbursement Requests: These will be the final reimbursement requests sent to Cascade Pacific. Phil moved to approve as presented, M.T. 2nd, vote passed

II. Agency Reports

- a. **Anna Smith, BLM Hydrologist:** She's not working on any projects in South Fork John Day at this time, and called to learn more and become more involved with the Council.

III. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates
 - i. OWRD Flat Creek Restoration: We were officially awarded the OWRD Water Project Grant for Flat Creek Restoration of excavating Aldrich ponds, new headgates, excavate the conveyance ditch, new screen and diversion, and pivot line. This will complement our OWEB grant for Juniper Removal for Flat Creek.
 - ii. OWEB Spring 2018: We have completed grant agreements for our Fall submittals for Murderers Creek Spring Developments, Magic Lantern, Wind Creek, South Fork Data Collection, and Tex Creek. We will begin securing Cooperative Agreements, and contractors.
 - iii. Snow Mtn (Kee): Elise has received a bid from Greg Ontko, that will meet the available funding. Jeff said Greg does great work.
 - iv. LiDAR: Elise is still working to coordinate where the most beneficial use of our LiDAR funding can be used, Anna would be able to get us the BLM's coverage from a website. Phil asked if LiDAR could be extended into the Upper South Fork? Amy wasn't sure but will check.
 - v. Flat ck & West fork Dry Creek: Amy held a bid tour for these two Juniper removal projects on November 29th, with bids closing December 13th.
 - vi. FFR/CRMP
 1. Strategic Plan: We will begin drafting a strategic plan for the South Fork John Day Watershed CRMP
 2. Forest Service MOU: We are still working through the Memorandum of Understanding with the Malheur National Forest
 3. Historical Knowledge Sharing: Meeting to gather knowledge from past aquatic professionals (Errol Clair, Tim Unterwegner, Jeff Neal, Chris Baer, Brent Smith, Steph Charrette) regarding the Bark Project Area, and the priorities they know of for the watersheds.
 4. BLM tours: A 2nd BLM tour was held to look at upland issues in the Upper South Fork Watershed. It was suggested that we compose a letter laying out what our Goals and Objectives are for the BLM managed land, what we would like to see from the BLM, what the SFJDWC can provide. Also, to suggest a prioritized list of projects we would propose for the BLM to start on. Justin Rodgers provided a beginning list of projects that he has on his list. Anna suggested that we

include a detailed map of project locations. We reviewed the projects from Justin, and M.T. requested to add re-building a stretch of burned fence between the BLM and Forest Service on Cabin and Dry Cabin creeks.

vii. Completion Reports

1. Fish Passage Barrier and Inshallah Aspen completion reports are complete.

b. Grant Reports

- i. 2019-2021 Council Capacity Application: Deadline March 4th. Joanne asked if there was anything besides updating our work plan, our self-evaluation, or annual county court update that needed to be completed. Amy responded that those were the main items to have complete.

IV. Discussion

a. Progress Report on standalone steps

- i. HRA has been set up, and will be effective as of January 1st
- ii. Set up with BenefitsMall Payroll service
- iii. Final fund requests processed
- iv. Secured Worker's Compensation through SAIF
- v. Amending all grants into SFJDWC's name

b. Joanne, asked how we will get funds into our account for wages and reimbursements. Amy said that she will request advances from OWEB to cover salaries, wages, and benefits, to get us started.

c. The Board discussed Treasurer responsibilities, and the need for the Treasurer to keep close tabs on Council finances.

d. Phil asked Anna if there was anything she'd like to ask us. Anna commented that from her experience, in the uplands most of the springs that could be developed are already developed, and she doesn't have any new water sources in her inventories, and many of the existing developments have dried up. Joanne stated that some of that is a result of the Juniper encroachment. Anna asked about possible aspen stands to protect on BLM land between Murderers Creek and Deer Creek. Amy said she wasn't aware of these but would look as part of our Aspen Inventory Project. It may be possible to target juniper/conifer removal around aspen there.

e. Phil asked if the BLM would have the USGS Enterprise Team out again? Anna said that they are working on the previous data from the Enterprise Team and are hoping to use aerial photography to show which water sources may be more resilient in times of drought.

f. M.T. asked if there had been any word about Dan Marvin's replacement, no one at the meeting knew of any replacement yet.

V. Coming Up

- a. Director & Officer Elections: January 14th
- b. Council Annual Self Evaluation: January 14th
- c. Annual County Court Presentation: end of January-February
- d. Employee Reviews: February 11th
- e. Amy paid time off: Dec 17th – Jan 7th

VI. Adjourned at 2:07pm, Next meeting date: Monday, January 14th 2019.