

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by Joanne Keerins at the Izee Schoolhouse in Izee, Oregon.

In attendance for regular session:

Phil St. Clair	M.T. Anderson	Jeff Maben	Amy Stiner	Micah Wilson	Joanne Keerins
Elise Delgado	Amy Charette, CTWS	Scott Hess	Mallory Davies, SFJDWC	Kirk Ausland, ODF	Ryan Torland, ODFW
Nick Lulay, USDA Predator Control	Mike Keerins	Justin Rodgers, BLM			

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 7 were represented at this meeting.

Everyone introduced themselves and their affiliations

**I. Action Items**

- a. January Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve, Micah 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- b. January Staff Time We are recording our time by class code now, to get cost reductions on worker's compensation. Phil moved to approve staff time as presented, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scott asked for clarifications on the class codes, Amy explained that we are charged less for office work than field work, motion passed.
- c. Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Per Richard's suggestion, Amy updated the Coordinator's duties in our Bylaws and updated the map. Amy also updated the Policies and Procedures to include the Personnel Policy and Fiscal Policy. Phil moved to approve as presented, Micah 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
- d. Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area Cooperative Agreement: This agreement is for the Tex Creek design work. Phil moved to approve, M.T. stated that he can't support this, and he viewed it as the biggest waste of money that He's seen, stating that Tex doesn't drain much country, and we are throwing money at a project that isn't going to make a difference. Joanne asked if we already had funding for the project, Amy answered yes. Scott asked for clarification, and if the money will be spent on figuring out how to fix the passage barrier. M.T. stated that it dries up for 4 or 5 miles, and that historically it won't run water. Scott knows of Tetra Tech, and it's a big engineering company. Talked about history behind the project, and ODFW proposing the project, at multiple Council meetings prior to Amy working on a grant application to OWEB. Amy Charette 2<sup>nd</sup> Phil's motion. Mike Keerins asked if the design work was only for the first ½ mile, Amy: It is for the ODFW owned portion. M.T. stated that he gets tired of seeing money wasted, he recalled that Jeff Neal commented about Tex ck, and that Tex ck is in relatively good shape. Scott asked if it was fenced all the way. Yes, all the critical habitat is fenced. M.T. stated that it does have premium spawning gravels. Amy C., looked back at OWEB app, and stated that the goal of the project is trying to get fish up to higher cooler water habitat. She also commented on successes the Tribes have had, working in other watersheds with similar conditions, stating that putting in BDAs to change the slope, has worked pretty well. Phil mentioned his reservations about riparian fencing, shifting grazing pressure from one part of the stream to other parts of the pasture, especially with feral horses. Phil would like to try to find a way to monitor areas where fencing, and BDAs are concerned, to get some idea of whether or not we are doing any good. Joanne commented that we could move forward with the design and decide whether or not to support any project implementation at a later date. Amy C, they've worked with Tetra Tech, and they put together a really comprehensive package with alternatives, expectations, results of what restoration would do. Joanne called for a vote: Phil, Joanne, Jeff, and Amy voted in favor, Scott and Micah voted yes reservedly, Scott stated that he doesn't want to pay \$65K for an engineer to say go plant willow. M.T. voted in opposition.
- e. Wind Creek Restoration Assessment Contract with Resources Specialist Inc. This Contract is to secure Resources Specialist Inc to perform the assessment of Wind Creek, they are also doing a Juniper prioritization for the Wind

Creek Watershed up through the Upper South Fork. Jeff said that Wind creek does flow year around. Phil moved to approve the contract, M.T. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jeff and Micah abstained due to possible conflicts of interest, motion passed.

## II. Agency Reports

- a. Ryan Torland, ODFW Wildlife Biologist Ryan presentation regarding wolves and mule deer. Ryan presented on the current status of wolves in Oregon, and preventative measures for operating as an ag producer. He also discussed mule deer populations.
- b. Nick Lulay, Grant County Predator Control added what to Ryan's presentation. Meeting participants asked about different predator control options for coyotes, skunks, cougars, bears, ground squirrels, ravens, crows, and starlings. Any private landowners interested in pursuing predator control should contact Nick. Phone: 541-224-3210, Email: nicholas.j.lulay@aphis.usda.gov

## III. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates
  - i. BDA Workshop Complete, project completion report submitted and approved
  - ii. Whole Kids Foundation complete, Elise has finished the completion report
  - iii. West Fork Dry Creek Juniper Removal: Complete, project completion report submitted and approved
  - iv. Izee/St. Clair Cooperative Water Development complete, project completion report submitted and approved, and contractor paid
  - v. Flat Creek Juniper Removal 38 acres of Juniper removal complete, inspected, contractor paid, and an additional 160 acres flagged and prepping for bid solicitation
- b. Grant Reports
  - i. OWEB – Keerins Big Flat Pasture Enhancement: Recommended for funding, Ranked 12 out of 12, now we just wait to see if we make the funding cutoff.
  - ii. Landscape Scale Restoration Application Elise worked to put together this application with ODF, to work on Forest Health along the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area and Private Land boundary. They came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State, and it went on to the National pool, where it didn't get funded, but great job getting 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State!
  - iii. 2019-2021 Council Capacity Application: Deadline March 4<sup>th</sup> After the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures are approved, I will have all of the components needed in order to submit this application (annual review, county court update, work plan, bylaws policies procedures,
  - iv. Wildlife Conservation Society: One to two-year projects that implement science-driven, on-the-ground actions that assist wildlife and ecosystems to adapt to climate change at a landscape scale. This funding source looked like an opportunity for the Keerins's Big Flat Well project.
- c. County Court Update Went very well, good questions from the audience, and a nice article in the Blue Mtn Eagle
- d. Biochar field trip: The meeting attendees viewed drone footage of the demonstration.
- e. Standalone steps
  - i. We have control over all of our projects and funds now
  - ii. we are still waiting on a final report from CPRCD, ratifying all accounts, figuring out what funds they still need to send to us, and us to them.
  - iii. January payroll went relatively smooth
  - iv. Thanks to a tip from other Council Coordinators, I have discovered a service called TechSoup, which offers extremely low pricing for technology to non-profits. One service I have already secured through them is Quickbooks. We were planning to spend \$360/year for Quickbooks services, and I have purchased it for a one-time fee through TechSoup for \$50.

## IV. Discussion

- a. Program Assistant Position Outreach I have put together a position outreach, and upon Board approval will advertise across our list serv, partner list servs (OWEB, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, John Day Basin Partnership, and the Blue Mtn Eagle). M.T. requested that we edit skills to say the ability to learn to accurately collect scientific data. Phil moved to adopt position description with the suggested edits, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- b. BLM Letter of Engagement I have put together a draft of the letter. The John Day Basin Partnership is also sending a letter to the BLM. The Board agreed to table this discussion until the March meeting.

- c. Project Selection This last month, we have had a few questions/comments, regarding projects that we are being asked to sponsor. I want to make sure that I am pursuing projects that the Board has approved. This will be continued at our March meeting.
- d. Strategic Planning: Elise has put together a tri-fold pamphlet to pass out to interested stakeholders. We will email this out to Directors for approval.
- e. Ag Water Quality update: Amy gave a presentation at the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) regarding what the Council has been up to over the last biennium. Joanne reported that the LAC reviewed the edited language, and that the State is backing off on doing objectives with milestones, and timelines. The ODA's Focus area is in Fox Creek, with additional monitoring using LiDAR.
- f. Soil and water annual meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>, talking about to re-charging underground aquifers.
- g. Amy also discussed working with the Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) for the Bark project area, and the validity and support this would offer the Council as we work in the project area. Mark Webb will come to the March Council meeting to discuss how we can work together.
- h. Amy has a teleconference set up with Jay Gibbs, and Lorraine Vogt (NRCS) to discuss the possible Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) application, on February 25<sup>th</sup>. M.T. suggested that we think about setting up a meeting with the NRCS outside of a Council meeting, so we are sure to have enough time to cover everything that needs to be covered. Amy will work with NRCS to look at available dates, and coordinate with the Board.

**V. Coming Up**

- a. Presidents' Day Holiday – Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – office closed
- b. John Day Basin Partnership meeting – Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – 10am-2pm – ODF Conf. Room John Day
- c. Farm to School – Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>
- d. Employee Reviews – Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>
- e. **CONNECT 2019- April 9-11 in Sunriver, OR**

**VI. Joanne Keerins Adjourned the meeting at 3:30, Next meeting date: Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2019.**