

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.

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, Vice Chair	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Jeff Maben, Director	M.T. Anderson, Director	Micah Wilson, Alternate Director	Scott Hess, Director
Justin Rodgers, BLM	Jeff Moss, BLM	Mike Keerins, Alternate Director	Scott Quigley, PWSWA	Jim Dovenberg, landowner	Amy Stiner, Coordinator
Hannah Latzo, Program Assistant	Russ Powell, ODFW	Pam Powell, ODFW			

Quorum was present because there are currently 7 directors on the board and 6 were represented at this meeting.

**I. Agency Reports**

- a. **Russ Powell ODFW Habitat Program**, 80% design complete for Murderers Creek and 100% design for Tex ck are complete. They are looking at another project on Rock Ck, if the Council is interested.
- b. **Justin Rodgers, and Jeff Moss, Prineville BLM**, SF fence contracts wrapping up. They are re-negotiating the contract to add gates. They have 2 more segments to wrap up fence work after SF Fire. No updates on Wildhorse plan. The Malheur National Forest is lead on Wildhorse plan. Got through scoping in 2019. Waiting for NEPA. No active gathering at this time. ODFW grazing planning and DGA meeting in Feb. Jeff Moss, Sunflower culvert is scheduled to be replaced in August. Road will be closed for at least a month in August, during the instream work window. No crossing even for fire or livestock. Any concerns can be voiced to their field manager. Cougar gulch culvert is on their radar but will be down the road.
- c. **Scott Quigley, PWSWA**, winter closure starting first of Feb. They have been working with Hannah on Johnson-Tunnel Juniper layout, and have sent the project plans to their Archaeologist to get clearances. Brandon and Clint back working on Flat Ck Juniper Removal. Staff will be lighting timber slash piles this week. DGA contract, meeting in beginning of Feb., and share crop agreements on fields local landowners have been irrigating and harvesting. They have had a couple of fires off SF road working and have been working with OSP to determine the cause and intent of the fires. The fires were larger than just campfire or warming fire and appeared to be deliberately trying to damage the land.

**II. Action Items**

- a. December Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve as mailed, Micah 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed unanimous
- b. December Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed unanimous
- c. Staff Check Requests: Phil moved to approve, M.T. 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed unanimous

- d. Director Elections: 2017-2019 Term - Scott Hess, Jeff Maben, Vacant Position, Phil moved to appoint both Scott and Jeff to another 2-year term, Micah 2nd, vote passed unanimous. Joanne asked if anyone wanted to run for the vacant position. Jim Dovenberg did not want to at this time. Russ Powell expressed interest. Phil moved to appoint Russ Powell as a Director on the Council for the 2020-2022 term, M.T. 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed unanimous. Russ named Pam as his alternate.
- e. Officer Elections: Currently Joann is Chair, Phil is Vice Chair, Scott Hess is Treasurer. M.T. Anderson nominated Jeff Maben, He would not accept the nomination. M.T. nominated Joanne Keerins for Council Chair, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed. Vice Chair: Phil stated that he is willing to continue, but open to someone else. Micah nominated Phil to be Vice Chair, Russ 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed. Scott moved to nominate any other director for the Treasurer position. No 2<sup>nd</sup> made. Phil nominated Scott to continue as Treasurer, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed.

### **III. Staff Report**

- a. Open Projects
  - i. Magic Lantern Juniper Cut is complete
  - ii. Johnson-Tunnel Juniper units have been flagged and sent to ODFW Archaeologists
  - iii. Wind Creek Assessment RSI is working on completing the assessment and it should be done this winter.
  - iv. Flat Ck Juniper Removal, Brandon Hueckman and Clint Walzyk are back working on the Juniper cutting over the winter.
  - v. Woodwards – completion report done
  - vi. Izee Allotment 2016 – Completion report done
  - vii. Tex Creek Design – completion report done
  - viii. Aspen and Springs – working on completion report
  - ix. Rosebud – working on completion report
  - x. Rapid Reveg – working on completion report, moving into the plant establishment phase
  - xi. DEQ 319 bioassessment and drone, still waiting for grant agreements
- b. Grant Applications
  - i. Farm to School not successful
  - ii. Outreach: Hannah – Oregon Invasive Species Council grant application with Monument SWCD, 2 educational events for the next 2 years all about invasive species control. One in Monument, and one at Outdoor school.
  - iii. Hannah is also working on a Forestry education program with Blue Mountain Forest Partners, to educate youth from area schools. We would help involving Dayville School.
  - iv. Hannah is working on the Wild and Scenic film festival with Blue Mountain Land Trust.
  - v. Landscape Scale Restoration grant application that Elise and Caleb (ODF) applied for is successful. This will provide funding for ODF to work on Forest Health on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area properties adjacent to the Widows Creek Ranch.
  - vi. Hannah is working on a grant application to the US Fish and Wildlife for property directly adjacent to the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area for wildlife habitat. We have focused on the Rockpile Ranch for Juniper removal, annual grass spray and re-seed.
  - vii. OWEB RRT Meeting, 1/14-15/2020

### **IV. Discussion**

- a. Mallory Davies has finished her term with us and is moving on to Colorado for Grad School.

- b. Amy is meeting with Solutions to review 1099s and Donations
- c. Directors completed our Annual Council Self Evaluation

**V. Coming Up**

- a. BLM Workshop: 1/28/2020. We will discuss Council priorities, BLM priorities, funding options. Justin Rodgers will be our point of contact for SF watershed. We are planning to meet at the Izee Schoolhouse from 10-2
- b. Employee Review – Amy Stiner at the February meeting
- c. NRCS Local Work Group: 2/11/2020, 10-12 at the ODF Conference Room
- d. Grant County Court Update – looking at March
- e. Connect Conference – April at Sunriver, planning to send Hannah

**I. Meeting Adjourned at 2:25, Next meeting date: Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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