

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm, by Joanne Keerins at the Izee Schoolhouse in Izee, Oregon.

In attendance for regular session:

|                               |                          |                          |                               |                       |                         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Phil St. Clair,<br>Vice Chair | Joanne<br>Keerins, Chair | Jeff Maben,<br>Director  | M.T.<br>Anderson,<br>Director | Amy Stiner,<br>SFJDWC | Hannah Latzo,<br>SFJDWC |
| Justin<br>Rodgers, BLM        | Jeff Moss,<br>BLM        | Jack<br>Vaughn,<br>PWSWA | Scott Quigley,<br>PWSWA       |                       |                         |

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

### I. Agency Reports

- a. Justin Rodgers, and Jeff Moss, Prineville BLM: M.T. asked about the fence between Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area and USFS against Aldrich Mtn. Did the gate issue get resolved, will they put gates in the fence? Justin responded that one gate might go in, but that they don't want to do contract amendment. M.T. expressed concern that the fence might be cut in multiple spots from public users. Justin will talk to their core lead to see if a contract amendment can be made to put some gates in, and suggested that Rebecca Hile, Assistant Field Manager would be someone to talk to. Jeff said they plan to replace the Sunflower culvert next summer. Jeff Maben Asked about temporary crossing while being replaced, Jeff Moss said he would check. Jeff Maben stated that in August folks need to have access, for fire and permittees. Phil asked about upcoming project planning and how we will work together on that. Justin, said that their field office structure is changing, and they do not have priority setting as of yet, but hopefully will after January. Anna and Justin are finishing clearances on Aspen restoration. Should move forward but not clear how they'll get the work done. Big Baldy allotment renewal nothing to report yet. 2 segments left to get out for contract for SF fire fence work. Cougar Gulch culvert measured and prepping for next summer to implement. Jeff Maben asked if it was funding, why they don't do both Sunflower and Cougar Culverts while all of the equipment is there. Jeff Moss said he thinks they'll try to do these projects in house. Biggest cost is purchasing the culverts. Phil asked who all from the BLM might attend the workshop January meeting, Justin thought they could be involved. Amy explained why we were having a workshop, as it was suggested by the BLM managers at the November Council meeting.
- b. Jack Vaughn, PWSWA: Introduced Scott Quigley, the new Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area supervisor. They are now fully staffed. They have been working on slash burning associated with timber sales. Getting ready to get next timber sale out to bid this winter. They have been working with Hannah to get the Johnson-Tunnel juniper cut finalized. Submit to archaeologist to get surveys taken care of. Cultural survey difficulties, figuring out who can and can't perform the surveys. Get everything ready to hit ground running. Scott Quigley is from Pendleton ODFW Habitat program, been at PWSWA for about month and a half now, getting to know the position and working on winter office work. Phil thanked the PWSWA for allowing the Annual Grass Amendment Research application. Jack said they've already been working with OSU to begin the study.

### II. Action Items

- a. November Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- b. November Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, M.T. 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- c. Staff Check Requests: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- d. Johnson-Tunnel Creek Juniper Removal Grant Agreement: M.T. moved to approve, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. Jeff said this will be a neat project and would like to see it done with a buncher, would cause less disturbance to the nice bitterbrush community.

### III. Staff Report

- a. Open Projects

- i. Mallory reported that she has been working on organizing and entering all of the field data that the SFJDWC staff and USFS staff have collected for the Bark Project Area. She is also editing the GIS data so that the USFS can use it in their planning.
    - ii. Hannah reported that she has been working on getting the Johnson-Tunnel Juniper removal project underway, along with John Day Basin Partnership Outreach committee duties, helping Mallory with the Bark data, and Aspen and Spring Inventories.
    - iii. Amy showed the board how she and Hannah have divvied up project duties.
  - b. Grant Applications
    - i. RCPP details:
      - 1. \$300 Million available Nationwide, \$150M for Critical Conservation Areas, and \$150M for State. We entered the State funding pool.
      - 2. Timeline: submitted the application Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, and anticipate results released by March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
    - c. Partnerships/education/outreach/trainings
      - i. We are sponsoring the Farm to School program, Elise wanted to continue to run the program, if successful we would contract for her services.

#### IV. Discussion

- a. Amy proposed the purchase of Elise Delgado's 2004 Ford Ranger, she found no bad reviews, it is in good condition, Elise is asking \$5,500. M.T. motioned to move forward with purchase of vehicle 2004 Ford Ranger and insurance, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

#### V. Coming Up

- a. Amy Stiner on Leave 12/10/2019-1/05/2020
- b. Hannah Latzo on Leave: 12/18/2019-1/05/2020
- c. SFJDWC Winter Break: 12/24/2019-1/05/2020
- d. BLM Workshop: 1/28/2019

#### I. Executive Session: ORS 192.660 (2)(a) Employee Reviews

- II. Phil motioned to increase Hannah's pay scale to a salary of \$39,520 per year Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, Joanne stated that this would be contingent upon funding levels remaining adequate, motion passed.

- III. Joann Adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm, Next meeting date: Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019