

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 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	Amy Charrette, Director, CTWS	Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Sue Greer, OWEB
Kristen Walz, NFJDWC, JDBP	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Mark Webb, BMFP	Mike Keerins, SFJDWC	Taylor Meyers, ODF	Lisa Clark, BLM
Kirsten Hines, BLM	Dennis Teitzel, BLM	Kirk Ausland, ODF	Tessa Edelen, DEQ	Kathleen Cathy, Senator Wyden's Office	Micah Wilson, SFJDWC

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

### I. Agency Reports

- a. Mark Webb, BMFP has been working on grant requests, and in Washington DC talking with different agencies.
- b. Sue Greer, OWEB just closed Fall grant cycle, 25 applications submitted, \$2.9 M requested, scheduling site visits. The review team meeting will be sometime in January. Region 6 usually receives anywhere between \$900K & \$1.2M in funding.
- c. Kristen Walz, John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP): The Partnership is made up of 28 different organizations, and was formed in 2014, around the shared belief that to accomplish more restoration in the John Day Basin, ridge top to ridge top, we needed to develop a Strategic Action Plan. A unique feature of the JDBP is ridge to ridge, not just aquatic. The JDBP applied for OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Implementation funding, and were awarded \$12M, over 6 years to support native fish in 3 geographies, Upper Middle Fork, Headwaters North Fork, and Butte Thirty Mile. This funding also includes Capacity building and Stakeholder engagement. SFJDWC managing capacity building grant, which requires managing capacities, coordination, project tracker, facilitation, GIS consultant for upland prioritization. The JDBP is beginning their Stakeholder engagement project; landowner engagement series, will be one in South Fork.
- d. Kathleen Cathy, Senator Wyden's office. They have worked a lot with Mark Webb and the Blue Mountain Forest Partnership, on the 10-yr stewardship effort. Senator Wyden has introduced a bill in Malheur county, to create 1 Million acres of wilderness that will retain grazing. This bill has been surprisingly well received.
- e. Tessa Edelen, DEQ, 319 Grant Program. Don Butcher will be the new Basin coordinator for the John Day Basin.
- f. Kirk Ausland, ODF, Mike Shaw, will be coming back as the District Forester on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Good fire season locally. Kept all fires 10 ac or less. Logging is holding steady on Private Lands. They have seen challenges recently with Malheur lumber not taking logs, causing local wood to be trucked to Pilot Rock or Pendleton.
- g. Dennis Teitzel, Prineville BLM, They had 3 seasonal employees across the John Day and Deschutes. They have 15 projects in the John Day Basin. They receive \$200,000 annually to support projects across whole Prineville District. They are working on the Murderers Creek Herd Management Plan with the Malheur National Forest. Their Intent is to get the Environmental Assessment done next year, 2020. The fence that burned between BLM and MNF, went out to bid, and will be wrapping up soon. Asked for funding for Cougar gulch culvert replacement. Fish Passage barrier at mouth of Deer Ck, not viable or beneficial. Amanda Roberts will be their new field manager. Amanda has a strong background in partnerships. The Council and BLM representatives discussed the process for the BLM to prioritize and implement restoration projects. The BLM puts in a project requests, which gets scored and competes Statewide. Kathleen suggested calling Senator Wyden's office to try to get more support for project funding. Meeting participants discussed different funding options, possibly OWEB, to support different phases of projects, including NEPA.

Dennis stated that the District is undergoing re-organization, going back to traditional BLM organization. Currently specialists work across the entire district, and they are working on going back to each specialist focusing on one geographic area.

Phil asked, what does the BLM want to prioritize in this basin and how can we work together to get these things put together? Dennis relayed the need for increased capacity and ability to engage in projects, that are enhancements for all resources. Hopefully re-organization will help to focus and re-engage.

The biggest issue is project conceptualizing and determining what projects to pursue. BLM representatives suggested putting together a work session to look at next steps, look at proposed projects, and determine the most logical sequence moving forward. Amy will coordinate with the BLM to set a date and plan.

Amy Charette, CTWS wrapping up work planned for 2020. Putting together their statement of work for BPA for the next 2 years, focusing on the Middle Fork and Upper John Day. CTWS will still provide Technical Assistance, and plantings outside of these focus watersheds.

**II. Action Items**

- a. October Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve, Micah 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- b. October Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- c. Staff Check Requests: Phil moved to approve, Micah 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

**III. Discussion**

- a. Mallory Davies: Phil moved to bring Mallory back on, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

**IV. Coming Up**

- a. John Day Basin Partnership Meeting, 11/19/2019, John Day
- b. Thanksgiving Holiday, 11/28/2019, SFJDWC Office Closed
- c. RCPP Application Deadline, 12/3/2019
- d. Amy Stiner on Leave 12/10/2019-1/05/2020
- e. Hannah Latzo on Leave: 12/18/2019-1/05/2020
- f. SFJDWC Winter Break: 12/24/2019-1/05/2020

**V. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**