

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 13th day of April 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	Pam Powell, ODFW & Alternate Director	Russ Powell, ODFW & SFJDWC Director	M.T. Anderson, Director
Micah Wilson, alternate director	Jeff Moss, Prineville BLM	Jack Vaughn, PWSWA	Amy Charette, Director & CTWSRO	Hannah Latzo, Program Assistant	Amy Stiner, Coordinator
Scott Hess, Director	Justin Rodgers, BLM				

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

I. Agency Reports

- a. **Jack Vaughn, ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area (PWSWA):** Offices closed to public, still all working at PWSWA, keeping spaced out. Can still meet with folks by appointment if permits are needed. Wildlife Area, opening at 4 am, on Wednesday 15th, rather than midnight Tuesday the 14th. All State wildlife areas are closed to camping, from 10 pm – 4 am. Trying to get fences checked and food plots put in. M.T. – where are the food plots going in? Jack: Ash Field & up Flat Creek, no new areas. M.T. – whole thing not open until 4 am? Jack: closed to all entry until 4 am. Effort to make all the same across the state. PWSWA and State Police will be patrolling. Phil: How is turkey hunting being handled? Jack: ODFW closed all activities to non-residents, residents are still allowed. ODFW is strongly encouraging folks to hunt/fish close to home, to avoid travel. Joanne: non-residents banned until when? Jack: indefinitely for now. Call ODFW for more info.
- b. **Amy Charette, CTWS:** Offices closed. Open back up on the 27th. Wait and see what will happen for their projects this year.
- c. **Jeff Moss, BLM:** Offices pretty much closed, no visitors. Everyone encouraged to telework. They are working on a Environmental Assessment (EA) to do the spring developments. Phil: MOU between Council and BLM? Justin, MOU has been identified, and he will follow up on it with Amy.
- d. **Russ & Pam, ODFW:** Work as usual, keeping social distance. Trying to get projects lined out for this year, but difficult to get things planned with uncertainty. Trying to figure out bid tours by distance.

II. Action Items

- a. March Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve the March meeting minutes, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- b. March Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Russ 2nd, motion passed
- c. Staff Check Request: Amy requested that she be allowed to sign this check request for Hannah, upon Board approval. Phil moved to approve the Check Request and allow Amy to sign the reimbursement check for Hannah, M.T. 2nd, motion passed.

III. Staff Report

- a. OWEB update: On a phone call on Friday, OWEB announced that it will be putting a pause on any new grant agreements, but that they do have funding available for grants that have already secured agreements.
- b. Amy Charette suggested checking into the Paycheck protection program through Bank of Eastern Oregon. Amy S. will follow up
- c. Open Projects

- i. Rapid Riparian Revegetation: Ash Creek was not able to come out to complete an inter planting on the project, so we worked with the South Fork Gardens (Tony & David Hand) completed the gathering of cuttings, and the John Day Basin Contractors (James Hand) completed the planting of 3000 willow.
 - ii. Tobin's River Fence: Hannah met with Rocky Perkins to get him started on constructing the fence.
 - iii. Sawtooth Meadows Fence: Secured grant agreement and can implement once the mountains allow.
 - iv. Johnson-Tunnel Juniper Removal: still waiting on cultural surveys
 - v. Flat Ck Juniper Removal: completed
- d. Pending Projects
 - i. Tex Creek & Murderers Creek Permitting & Contracting: We do not have secured grant agreements for these 2 projects, so they are on hold until OWEB is certain they will be able to fund.
 - ii. Brisbois Aspen: no secured grant agreement, and ranked #7, so if OWEB's funding levels are reduced, we would be wise to re-submit this project in this Spring cycle.
 - iii. OWEB – deadline moved to May 11
 - 1. Smokey Creek Restoration
 - 2. Lewis Creek Watershed Health
 - 3. Rosebud Watershed Health
 - 4. Brisbois Aspen-re-submit
 - iv. Meyer Memorial Trust – Annual Grass Amendment Study
 - v. Sitka Ecosystem Grant – Lewis Creek Watershed Health
 - vi. Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation – Lewis Creek Watershed Health
 - vii. Rockpile Ranch Big Game Habitat Enhancements-haven't heard anything new. It is recommended for funding. Said they would know more around April 15th. Wouldn't be surprised if on hold. Phil: how will annual grasses be addressed? Hannah: Applied for spray and re-seed and juniper maintenance. Phil: Matt Wenick, had success with esplanade. Jack: heard about esplanade, new chemical, copy of label seemed to indicate that grazing would not be allowed after application, but Open Range G doesn't seem to have grazing restriction.
 - viii. DEQ 319 Grants: We have been told that they are getting very close to getting grant agreements out. Also Tessa Edelen is moving into a different position, and will no longer be our liaison.
 - ix. OWEB Small Grants
 - 1. Martin Creek Upland Water: in review, and will be put on hold
- e. Partnerships/education/outreach/trainings
 - i. OWEB Capacity Stakeholder Group: OWEB has put together a review group to review their capacity funding, and the effects of that funding on organizations like ours. They are looking at what works, what doesn't, what the differences are between highly functioning organizations and lesser. Amy is participating in this group.
 - ii. John Day Basin Partnership Steering & Outreach Committees: I am still on the John Day Basin Partnerships Steering Committee, with elections happening in about 2 weeks, and am up for re-election. Hannah has been working with the Outreach committee. She has set July 22nd for a restoration field trip on Sheep Ck, and is planning a cookout with beef and berries from IZ ranch.

IV. Discussion

- a. RCPP announcement April 16th.
- b. Conflict of Interest Questionnaire – just missing Richard's
- c. Admin Leave – Directors did pass a motion to allow 40 hours of admin leave for Amy and Hannah through the month of April, in order to compensate for the COVID19 reduced workload, and promote
- d. Mussel Research: Anna Smith expressed interest in collecting Mussel data in the South Fork John Day, and Phil has been interested in having this completed. Amy contacted the Xerces Society, and will work with Emilie Blevens to identify Mussel populations in conjunction with our planned Bioassessment.

V. Coming Up

- a. Grant County Court Update was cancelled, and we will submit an electronic report.
- b. Connect 2020 has been cancelled.
- c. John Day Basin Partnership, 5/19/2020, will be via the web, and Amy can forward the info to anyone interested in participating.

- d. At Grant SWCD's monthly meeting, ODA called in, and the SIA was discussed. If anyone would like more info they can ask Phil and Joanne, but the SWCD board did make it clear that people at meeting did not believe ODA addressed their questions/concerns.

I. **Adjourned at 2:00 pm, Next meeting date: Monday, May 11th 2020**

DRAFT