

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 11th day of May 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm, by Joanne Keerins by teleconference, all attendees were on the phone.

In attendance for regular session:

Phil St. Clair, Director	Joanne Keerins, Director	Jeff Maben, Director	Richard Nelson, Director	Justin Rodgers, Prineville BLM	Amanda Roberts, Prineville BLM
Aaron Roth, NRCS	Rick Gaarde, Wind Creek Landowner	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Amy Stiner, Coordinator		

Quorum was not present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 4 were represented at this meeting.

I. Agency Reports

- a. **Prineville BLM, Justin Rodgers and Amanda Roberts:** Justin gave an update regarding the fence reconstruction after South Fork Fire. They have successfully completed 2 phases, with 1 phase remaining. Next steps: clearances, survey and design, with implementation to follow. Maybe look at Fall 2020 for an OWEB application to assist in fencing. They have been working on the rangeland health and allotment management plan for Big Baldy and Big Flat and are starting to write rangeland health evaluation for permit renewal. Quite a bit of monitoring and compliance happening in South Fork watershed for allotment management plans, permit renewals, and compliance. Amanda: continuing to keep moving forward on projects. Out for comments for South Fork restoration EA. Sunflower creek culvert replacement kicked back to next summer. Did receive funding for the bypass. Trying to look forward to deferred maintenance funding, they have a couple roads and projects they are trying to have shovel ready, to include Deer Creek road. They want to be ready if and when funding comes available.
- b. **Aaron Roth, NRCS:** SFJDWC was approved for RCPP funding, bringing a little over \$1.7M to the watershed for upland type projects. This will be available for the next 5 years, looking at taking applications next Spring 2021. Wanted to congratulate SFJDWC on the successful application. Amy had a meeting with Aaron and Jay Gibbs, they will be our points of contact as we work through the agreement. We will be looking into a programmatic AGI waiver. Recommend that any landowners interested in projects make sure they are up to date with FSA.

II. Action Items (Since a quorum was not present electronic vote will be requested)

- a. April Meeting Minutes
- b. April Staff Time
- c. Directors and Officers, General Liability, & Commercial Auto Insurance Policy Renewals
- d. 40 hours of Admin Leave for the month of May.
(Electronic Vote Results: Richard Nelson moved that items a-d be accepted, Jeff Maben 2nd, motion passed unanimous)

III. Staff Report

- a. OWEB Status update: Postponed any new grant awards until their June 11th Board meeting, extending Spring 2020 grant applications until July 27th, 2020. Council Capacity funding may be extended 8 weeks.
- b. Open Projects
 - i. Project Monitoring for 2020
 1. Poison ck, Bunton Aspen, Muddy Horse: 2nd and final report
 2. Sheep Ck, 1st of 2 reports
 - ii. Completed projects
 1. Rosebud Allotment Improvements

- 2. Wind Creek Assessment
- iii. Izee Allotment
 - 1. Hannah will be heading out to flag the Sawtooth meadows fence, and the Alder spring fence
- iv. Bark Data Collection
 - 1. Hannah will begin field work for the 2020 season, performing hydrology surveys in the Bark project area, as well as on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area.
- v. CRMP: working on writing up a strategic plan based on all of our interactions and data collected.
- vi. Whitetop biological control pre-release monitoring needs to be completed in May. Amy will send Joey Milan's biocontrol info out to all of the Directors.
- vii. Murderers Creek Allotment Spring developments: Todd Smith is getting going on these now.
- c. Grant Applications
 - i. OWEB
 - 1. Smokey Creek Restoration
 - 2. Lewis Creek Watershed Health
 - 3. Rosebud Watershed Health
 - 4. Brisbois Aspen
 - 5. Stakeholder Engagement
 - ii. Bella Vista Foundation – Annual Grass Amendment, funded \$30,000
 - iii. US Partners for Fish and Wildlife Rockpile Ranch Big Game Habitat Improvement approved for funding. We are working through agreements and paperwork to get this project rolling.
 - iv. OWEB Small Grants
 - 1. Martin Creek Upland Water – recommended for funding by the Small Grant Team, but will be OWEB grant agreement is on hold

IV. Discussion

- a. Paycheck Protection Program: \$19,690 funds received and can be used for 8 weeks. Forgiven if put toward Salaries, Utilities, Rent

V. Coming Up

- a. 5/19/2020: John Day Basin Partnership/Middle Fork IMW joint meeting
- b. 5/25/2020: Memorial Day, SFJDWC Holiday
- c. 6/2-6/4/2020: GIS Training
- d. 6/10/2020: BPA Coordination Group
- e. 6/25/2020: Prineville BLM Check-in

I. Joanne Adjourned the meeting at 2:16 pm, Next meeting date: Monday, June 8th 2020