

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 14th day of September 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by Joanne Keerins, at the Izee Schoolhouse.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latz, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director	Mike Keerins, Alternate Director
Richard Nelson, Director	Aaron Roth, NRCS	Russ Powell, Director			

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 5 were represented at this meeting.

I. Agency Reports

- a. **Aaron Roth, NRCS:** Staffing change, Emma will be leaving at end of month. Advertising job within next couple of weeks. Wrapping up CSP contracts for the year, fund about ½ application they received, 12 out of 22. RCPP, meeting tomorrow to finalize agreement and screening/ranking, and start talking about setting up field visits for the fall.
- b. **Russ Powell, ODFW Habitat:** They have 2 projects remaining in Desolation, and have bid out 2 jobs on Lemon and Dans creeks, planning to start on them shortly.

II. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil moved to approve, Russ 2nd, motion passed
- b. August Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve as mailed, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- c. August Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- d. RCPP Privacy Policy: Richard moved approve and sign, Phil 2nd, motion passed

III. Staff Report

- a. OWEB budget update: From OWEB, “In August, our grant fund received a distribution of \$3.47 million. This is about 41% of the average that we received in the previous four quarters. While that number is low, it is actually better than we expected given Lottery was only open for one-third of the last quarter. This funding will be held in the board’s grant account until the next time our Board award open solicitation grants, which will likely be next March. Added to the \$4.4 the board held back in June for a future grant cycle, we are now at \$7.8 million for a future grant cycle. We will receive three more distributions – November, February, and May.”
- b. Open Projects
 - i. RCPP: working through agreement, deadline of September 30th.
 - 1. In negotiations with Basin Team Lead, District Conservationist and Partner, we reduced the proposed NRCS TA-I from 10% (\$174,286) to 5% (85,714.30). We added the remainder (\$88,571.70) to FA, increasing FA from \$1,320,000 to \$1,408,571.
 - ii. Bid tour and Bid for Keerins Brisbois Aspen project ended on 9/10
 - iii. Planning a Fall 2020 planting for St. Clair and IZ Ranch river
 - iv. Working on getting a Fluvial Geomorphologist to look over Bark Project Area
 - v. LiDAR acquisition is complete, and they are now ground truthing the data.

- vi. Moving into Winter: Drone certification, Bids for Pivot line and project work on Wildlife Area/Aldrich Ponds, Bid for Johnson-Tunnel Juniper on Wildlife Area
- c. Grant Applications
 - i. OWEB Small Grant: Willit Spring Development submitted
 - ii. OWEB BLM funding: We have been tagged to receive \$100,000 of the \$3Million Good Neighbor Authority funding for BLM funding that is funneled through OWEB. We are working with Anna Smith and Justin Rodgers to get a grant application submitted to OWEB by September 30th. We are hoping to apply for funding for spring developments, juniper removal, aspen protection....
 - iii. Looking into a Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation Application for Aspen protection on the Wildlife Area
- d. Partnerships/education/outreach/trainings
 - i. John Day Basin Partnership Votes: (1) approve the changes to the Operations Manual and (2) vote on the addition of Sustainable Northwest and Morrow SWCD to the JDBP. Directors supported a yes vote on both items.
 - ii. Hannah will be assisting ODFW in Chinook Salmon Surveys
 - iii. Re-scheduling Sheep Creek restoration site visit for October 15th
 - iv. Will begin RCPP outreach in the Fall for the Upper South Fork
 - v. Hannah and Elise are working on Forestry Education Program with Dayville School

IV. Discussion

- a. Russian Knapweed biocontrol, landowners present were unsure of possible populations on their properties and advised that Matt Wenick be contacted to determine any possible locations for a biocontrol release.

V. Coming Up

- a. 9/17/2020: Blue Mountain Land Trust Webinar
- b. 10/6, 10/27, 10/29: OWEB Review Team Calls

I. Adjourn, Next meeting date: TUESDAY, October 13th 2020