

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 January 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, by Joanne Keerins, at the Izee Schoolhouse.

In attendance for regular session:

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| Amy Stiner, SFJDWC | Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC | Joanne Keerins, Chair | Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair | Jeff Maben, Director | Aaron Roth, NRCS |
| Mike Keerins, Keerins Ranch | Jeff Moss, BLM | Jack Vaughn, ODFW PWSWA | M.T. Anderson, Director | Micah Wilson, Alternate Director | Jim Dovenberg, Widows Creek Ranch |
| Marty Robinett, Double R Ranch | Scott Hess, Director | | | | |

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 7 were represented at this meeting.

I. Agency Reports

- a. **Jack Vaughn, ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area:** They just wrapped up their Irrigon wetland restoration project, which will be similar to Murderers Creek and Tex Creek projects. The project management was very intensive. They are getting close to winter closure. This Fall they were able to treat close to 1500 acres on the Wildlife Area, Widows Ck ranch, and some of Russ Young's property with Open Range G annual grass treatment. They put in for an RMEF grant to re-seed what was treated. They'll be working on grazing planning with BLM and permittees. Open Range G should take care of all 3 annuals, medusahead, cheatgrass, and ventanata. They found it was cheaper to apply aerially than on the ground. They are working on test plots with Matt Wenick with Rejuevra, a new annual grass treatment that is supposed to have a longer residual effect, but you may not be able to plant back for 5 years. Testing to see how quick you can re-plant. Directors asked what the BLM was allowed to use, Jeff Moss Thought Imazapec may be the only product BLM can use. We will be kicking off the Landscape Scale Restoration forestry project next Wednesday, January 20th. This funding was secured by Elise Delgado, and Caleb Sturgill, ODF will be the grantee and we will subcontract. We will be meeting to discuss project deliverables, and timelines.
- b. **Aaron Roth:** COVID update: county numbers down, can do appointments in office, and can do anything in the field. Their new Soil Con, Stephanie Moothart, Teresa Perkins has also accepted the soil con technician position, they have released an advertisement for 3rd soil con. Local work group meeting will be via Zoom and broken into 3 different dates to talk about different land uses. Feb. 16th 1-2, cropland, Feb 17th range, Feb. 18th forestry. If unable to attend can still call or email to provide input. April 16th deadline for Upper South Fork RCPP applications. We will begin Outreach for Lower South Fork in summer 2021 with a Fall deadline.
- c. **Jeff Moss:** Sunflower culvert designs are on their Engineer's desk. Hopefully go to contracting, so can replace it this summer. New Fisheries bio position, Jeff was covering the entire John Day Basin, and they hope to bring on a second fisheries biologist for the basin.

II. Action Items

- a. December Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- b. December Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, M.T. 2nd, motion passed
- c. Director Elections (M.T. Anderson, Richard Nelson, Vacant Position): Phil moved to reappoint M.T. Anderson as Director, Jeff 2nd, M.T. recused, motion passed
- d. Phil moved to reappoint Richard Nelson with Micah Wilson as alternate, M.T. 2nd, Micah recused, Motion passed
- e. Officer Elections (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer)
 - i. Phil moved to retain Joanne Keerins as Chair, Micah 2nd, Joanne recused, motion passed
 - ii. Vice Chair, Jeff motioned to elect Phil as Vice Chair, Micah 2nd, Phil recused, motion passed
 - iii. Secretary/Treasurer: Phil nominated Scott Hess, Micah 2nd, Scott recused, motion passed

III. Staff Report

- a. Annual Report: We reviewed the annual report. After suggested edits, the report will be sent electronically to all contacts.

IV. Discussion

- a. Annual Self-Assessment: Directors walked through our Annual Self-Assessment

V. Coming Up

- a. Council Capacity Grant Application Deadline: 3/11/2021
- b. OWEB Spring 2021 Grant Cycle: April 2021
- c. February 16-18th NRCS Grant County Local Work Group Meeting, Virtual listening sessions
- d. February 22nd Part 107 Exam

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

VII. Phil moved to approve the proposal as presented, Jeff 2nd, motion passed.

I. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Monday February 8th, 2020.

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