

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 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
Micah Wilson, Alt. Director	M.T. Anderson, Director	Aaron Roth	Justin Rodgers, Prineville BLM, Assoc. Director	Russ Powell, ODFW, Director	Amy Charette, CTWS, Director
Scott Hess, Director					

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

### I. Agency Reports

- a. **Aaron Roth, NRCS:** Held their Virtual Local Work Group meeting. They have a tentative job offer for 3<sup>rd</sup> soil con in the office. Hopefully on board around May. They have only received a couple of application for their CREP tech position, the deadline to apply is today. CSP deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>. EQIP/RCPD deadline: April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **Russ Powell, ODFW Habitat Program:** Still planning to get Tex ck completed this year, and the Murderers Creek project is slated for 2022.
- c. **Justin Rodgers, Prineville BLM:** Working on hiring additional hydrology and fishery biologist positions for the Upper JD/Eastern OR region. This field season they will be working on the Big Baldy/Big Flat allotment renewal. They will work on the Rangeland health assessment this year, and next year complete the EA and permit renewal. We are working on an OWEB application for the last of South Fork fire fence. Also working on the Restoration EA, for 12 restoration projects in the South Fork, and will get that out for public comment early this Spring. Do plan for most implementation to occur in FY 22.
- d. **Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs:** They are working on their statement of work for this year. Their BPA projects are going through ISRP review, this is their project planning for the next 5 years. Their proposals are due in May. Then they go through a several month review process. Phil asked if the ISRP review was of past projects, or future? Both, it is a review of their whole program, 2023-2027, also reviewing annual reports and work done from 2012 to present. What agencies fill review team? Professionals across all fields, the Northwest Power and Conservation council governs and convenes ISRP. All the information is available on NWP website. Do they ever come out on the ground? During their last review in 2012, they did have a big tour. Not going to this year.

### II. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- b. February Meeting Minutes: Micah moved to approve, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- c. February Staff Time: M.T. moved to approve as presented in packets, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

### III. Staff Report

- a. Aviatrice License: Amy and Hannah took the FAA Part 107 exam for a UAV license, and passed.
- b. OWEB Results
  - i. Smokey, Grouse, do not fund.
  - ii. Rosebud, Lewis, Stakeholder Engagement, will be funded.
- c. Upcoming Possible OWEB applications
  - i. Mussel Monitoring: monitor the effects of the Murderers Ck project on mussel populations
  - ii. Caribou Aspen Health: Conifer Removal and Aspen Protection in the Caribou pasture of the Izee Ranch
  - iii. Rosebud riparian health: BDA work on Rocking 9 Rosebud Creek
  - iv. Sunflower Allotment Upland Health: On hold until Fall 2021
  - v. BLM fencing: Finish the replacement of about 7 miles burned fence after the South Fork Fire

- vi. John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization: Coordinate the upland prioritization effort for the John Day Basin Partnership
- d. RCPP timeline
  - i. Applications April 16<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. scoring, ranking, funding decision Mid May
  - iii. Landowner contracts June-July
  - iv. Cultural Resource Clearances
  - v. Landowners must have a signed Contract and Cultural Resource Clearance before any work occurs, if work begins prior to either of these the funding will be withdrawn.
- e. Upcoming
  - i. With the postponement of the Murderers Creek project, Amy made the decision to to hold off on hiring seasonal help
  - ii. Partner for Fish and Wildlife Bid Tour – March 30th
  - iii. Johnson-Tunnel Bid Tour – after WA opens, April 15th
  - iv. Lower South Fork Outreach for RCPP and Needs Assessment will begin after the April 16<sup>th</sup> first round of applications
  - v. Landscape Scale Restoration Forestry Outreach/education/field trips – once access opens up
  - vi. Mussel Salvage & Monitoring – July 2021
  - vii. BLM Good Neighbor Authority projects – photopoints, flagging, contracting.
  - viii. Aldrich Ponds Projects underway – monitoring, bid, construction.
  - ix. Lewis & Rosebud – photopoints, contracting, implementation.
  - x. Bioassessment – Late summer, assist Mike Cole in data collection.

#### IV. Discussion

- a. Directors asked if we could find out when mule deer flights are happening. Amy will check in with Ryan Torland.

#### V. Coming Up

- a. March 9-10<sup>th</sup> OWEB Meeting
- b. March 25<sup>th</sup>, Upper Mainstem/South Fork John Day River Ag Water Quality Management Plan, Lite Review: put out call to directors for challenges/opportunities for ag water quality
- c. April 16<sup>th</sup>, RCPP Application Deadline for the Upper South Fork Landowners
- d. OWEB Spring 2021 Grant Cycle: April 26, 2021

#### I. Adjourned meeting at 1:55 pm, Next meeting date: Monday April 12th, 2021.