

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 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, alternate Director
Richard Nelson, Director	Scott Hess, Director	Russ Powell, ODFW, Director	Jim Dovenberg	Aaron Roth, NRCS	

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 6 were represented at this meeting.

### 1. Agency Reports

- a. Updates from attending agencies.

Russ Powell, ODFW Habitat, still holding out for Tex creek implementation this year, but not optimistic.

Aaron Roth, NRCS: Leila Culpepper, 3<sup>rd</sup> soil con, just started. EQIP/RCPD ranking deadline next week. CSP closed couple weeks ago, landowner interviews and rankings. Quality assurance review coming up next year, this is a review of regions to make sure they're doing what they need to. Richard asked if approved RCPD projects be able to go on the ground this year.

Ranking next week, pre-approval letters starting in June, then Cultural resource clearances (SFJDWC contract out the surveys). It may be possible for juniper removal, forest thinning, and fencing to happen later this fall. Stockwater projects, springs, troughs, require more in-depth clearances. Pushing them further into next year.

### 2. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
- b. April Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
- c. April Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
- d. Check Request: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

### 3. Staff Report

#### a. Financial Report

SFJDWC OPEN GRANTS			
	Total	Spent	Remaining
Salaries/Wages/Benefits	329,080.49	124,765.99	204,314.50
Contracted Services	2,647,462.00	75,638.19	2,571,823.81
Materials/Supplies/Other/Equipment	44,318.00	3,845.11	40,472.89
Travel	15,887.51	3,977.55	11,909.96
Other	13,378.50	12,159.04	1,219.46
Admin	137,302.00	18,389.93	118,912.07
Post Grant	22,671.00		22,671.00
	3,210,099.50	238,775.81	2,971,323.69
TOTAL FROM OPEN GRANTS			\$2,971,323.69
Bank of Eastern Oregon Balance			\$34,648.96
Pending Fund Requests			\$35,135.35
Accounts Payable			\$15,826.57
Pending Grant Requests			\$691,717.00

Phil asked about the Bark project status: We're just wrapping everything up. Will we still be involved moving forward & plan to search for funding. Bark project decision probably won't happen until 2024.

#### b. Grant Proposals

OWEB spring 2021: Hole in the Ground, Widows Ck Ranch Upland Water, South Fork Fire BLM fence re-construction, JDBP Upland Prioritization, Mussel Monitoring

#### c. Projects – Open

Just held the Johnson-Tunnel Bid tour

Brisbois Aspen starting back up – we will be getting the contractor going and re-flagging where needed.

Rosebud and Lewis Ck – setting up flagging, & photopoints

BLM Good Neighbor Authority – site visits, photopoints

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Rockpile Ranch, Juniper maintenance & cut/pile have been contracted.

Getting familiar with drone

Completed 2021 White top monitoring for the biocontrol release.

Water quality monitoring – temp loggers have been deployed in the Upper South Fork

Bark data collection will be wrapping up.

Stakeholder engagement – RCPP – LSR – JDBP information distribution (Postcards, Dayville city park, GC Fair, field trips to LSR forestry & maybe Rockpile Ranch)

#### d. Projects – Planning

Caribou Aspen Health

Sunflower Allotment

### 4. Discussion

#### a. SFJDWC Contracting Policy

Recent webinars and council activities have prompted revising our contracting policy. The Board walked through proposed revisions, and a decision to adopt the policy will be made at the June meeting.

b. River Democracy Act of 2021

The Council discussed the Wild & Scenic policy. Many of the streams/ivers they have listed are in need of restoration and have fish passage issues. Concern over the Act not allowing for restoration or just adding another hoop to have to jump through/permit to secure. Concern over Act not allowing for grazing or increasing regulation on grazing. What science is backing their selections? What was their selection process? Were the professionals and land managers that consulted?

What will the new management plan, written after act is passed, entail, who will write it? Directors were concerned that this would be opportunity for leverage for regulation/stop resource use.

Directors instructed Amy to compose a letter that they would review for submission as comment to the Act.

**5. Coming Up**

- a. May 25<sup>th</sup>: John Day Basin Partnership MFIMW Full-group meeting
- b. May 30<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day

**6. Adjourn**, Next meeting date: Monday June 14th, 2021.