

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 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 Latzo, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director
Richard Nelson, Director	Scott Hess, Director	Emma Gabriel, FSA	Jim Dovenberg	Aaron Roth, NRCS

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

### 1. Agency Reports

#### a. Updates from attending agencies

Aaron Roth, NRCS: RCPP approval letters not going to happen for little while, NRCS is running the sign ups through a new program, and they are working out the kinks. Landowners can expect contracts later in August. Project will need cultural clearance before implementation. The NRCS Offices are open by appointment only, folks can call and set up a meeting. They are also wrapping up EQIP and CSP rankings.

Emma Gabriell, Harney & Grant FSA: Acreage reports will be due July 15<sup>th</sup>. Grant County qualified for 3 months drought payment. Does anticipate qualifying for 4-month payment, livestock worksheets sent out today. We are in drought; they will have programs to assist. They will have a CRP grasslands, which is a new conservation program. The rate for Grant County is going from \$5 to \$15/acre. To get a hold of the Harney County office, call the Grant County office, and it will forward to them.

### 2. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- b. May Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- c. May Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- d. Contracting Policy: Phil moved to approve Contracting Policy as presented, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

### 3. Staff Report

#### a. Grant Proposals

OWEB review team meetings TA and Monitoring complete, Restoration scheduled through this month.

#### b. Open Projects

Completed Project Final Status Reports:

213-6023: Buck Mtn, Stonewall Aspen

214-6013: Soda Creek

215-6005: Johnnies & Caps Aspen

216-6027: Fields Peak Water Developments

Still to do final status report:

25-18-003: Woodward

Completed Drone flights for Upper SF, Brisbois, Tex, MC, and Hole in the Ground

Rosebud: Juniper units flagged, riparian pasture fence almost complete

Lewis: spring development complete.

Brisbois Aspen: Jim Angell is actively working now, and has completed 4 of the 7 units, with spring development and aspen caging left to complete.

Canada Thistle Rust monitoring end of June

R3 Bioassessment: September

Mussel Salvage: September

Tex & MC still waiting on Cultural's, then we can secure Army Corp of Engineers permit, and plan for 2022 implementation

BLM Good Neighbor Authority projects: get out to each site this summer with BLM and get a game plan

RCP: Lower South Fork outreach, newspaper article, postcards, next will be phone calls. Will be planning an outreach event for landowners and contractors to review the project types. Plan for a day in the park in Dayville, and present to Dayville City Council. Plan to set up a booth at the fair.

Landowner/Contractor Field Day

Landscape Scale Restoration Forest Health: Site visit with Private, State, and Forest Service focus on Pine health.

Johnson-Tunnel has been contracted to Timber Basin Contractors

PFW contracted to Timber Basin Contractors

Council Capacity decisions in July

- c. Projects – Planning
  - Sunflower Allotment
  - Caribou Aspen Health
  - Rosebud Springs

#### 4. Discussion

Pickup: The Council pickup has needed constant repairs, and we would like to investigate the purchase of a newer more dependable vehicle. Richard asked if there was an amount in the budget earmarked for this? We have approximately \$100,000 in our miscellaneous funds that we can access for purchases like this. Amy will do more research to determine how much miscellaneous funds could go toward the purchase of a pickup. Joanne asked what we are looking for in a vehicle. We would like a 4-door, 4x4, low mileage pickup. Directors were concerned that the price of pickups has increased, and will keep increasing, and if we are looking at needing a new pickup that we should act soon.

Richard asked about news on the River Democracy Act. Kathleen Cathy joined in for the Grant SWCD meeting for a question-and-answer session. Directors asked to be kept up to date on the Act's p appraised of when it's being voted on. Concerning that Feds are going back to wanting to own every drop of water. She did recommend that if there was a problem with designation, then let her know.

Also at the Grant SWCD they discussed a larger group of OR counties bringing forth objections to SIAs.

## **5. Coming Up**

- a. June 16<sup>th</sup>, Coordination Meeting
- b. June 17<sup>th</sup>, Widows Creek Upland Water OWEB Review Team Meeting
- c. June 22<sup>nd</sup>, South Fork Fire Fence Re-Construction OWEB Review Team Meeting
- d. June 30<sup>th</sup>, Hole In The Ground OWEB Review Team Meeting
- e. July 5<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day Observed

## **6. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Monday July 12th, 2021.**