

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 12th day of July 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 |
| Micah Wilson, Alternate Director | Scott Hess, Director | Mike Keerins, Keerins Ranch | M.T. Anderson, Director | Amy Charette, CTWS/Director |
| Russ Powell, ODFW/Director | Justin Rodgers, BLM | Jim Dovenberg, Widows Ck Ranch | Emma Gabrielle, FSA | Aaron Roth, NRCS |

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

1) Agency Reports

- (a) Emma Gabrielle, FSA: We are in a severe drought. Programs to help; livestock forage program - Deadline = Jan 30, 2022. FSA County Committee (COC) elections open, Northern Grant County up for elections, date for nomination form is 8/2. CRP grasslands, Sign ups started today, deadline is 8/20. Directors asked what the requirements/restrictions were. Can hay or graze, restrictions on primary nesting season, have to follow grazing plan from NRCS. Payment/acre = \$15/ac, every October for 10-15 years. Can cost share on some fencing, water facility development. Grant County has qualified for 4-month payment for D3 drought. Will go to 5-month with D4 drought.
- (b) Aaron Roth, NRCS: EQIP-CIC application deadline is today. Waiting to hear from State office on final CSP application funding results. RCPP contracts written in mid-August, we're the guinea pigs, and contract side is slow to work through, waiting on software updates. Meeting with all DCs last week. Next round of applications later this fall/November.
- (c) Russ Powell, ODFW Habitat Program: They are working on an in-stream project on Tinker creek, a trib to Beach ck. They have 2 other projects, one on Long creek, and another on Pine Hollow.
- (d) Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs: ISRP proposals in and presentations done. Tribal council come tour projects later this week. They will hold the plantings for the Murderers ck project until next year.
- (e) Justin Rodgers, Prineville BLM: Justin asked for an update on the OWEB application for the South Fork fence reconstruction. OWEB review team to meet on 7/21 with a final funding decision in October. ID Team out next couple weeks working on Big Flats and Big Baldy. Looking at day to get out and talk about management options. Hope to have EA next year, talking projects, cross fences, grazing plan. Will plan to get out on a restoration project site tour, for the OWEB/BLM Good Neighbor Authority Grant. Will send Amy shapefiles for SFJDWC recon. Announce staffing change: Fisheries bio for Central OR field office, Cody Payne, maybe taking over the SFJD area. Came from Warm Springs Tribes. Directors asked if there was a new forester? Yes, Austin Tschida. Sunflower culvert, no update, still online for this year. New wildlife specialist? Had it filled but fell through. Position is still vacant. New info on horses? Making progress, working internally/cooperatively, on management EA. Hope to be out for public comment this Fall.

2) Action Items

- a) June Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve as mailed, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- b) June Staff Time: Phil moved to approve the staff time for June, Jeff 2nd, Joanne noted the correction in dates from January. motion passed

3) Staff Report

- a) Grant Proposals
 - i) OWEB review for restoration grants (Widows Creek, SF Fire Fence, and Hole in the Ground) will be on 7/21/2021, and we should know funding recommendations shortly after.
 - ii) JDBP FIP Capacity application: The SFJDWC will submit and administer the FIP Capacity Application for the John Day Basin Partnership.
 - iii) Plan to submit an Oregon Wildlife Foundation proposal for juniper removal and spring development for the Double R Ranch in the Antelope Creek watershed.
 - iv) Submitted application to the Charlotte Martin Foundation for Rosebud Watershed.
 - v) The Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring application was recommended for funding and ranked 3 out of 4
 - vi) The John Day Basin Partnership's Uplands Prioritization application was recommended for funding and ranked 2 of 3
 - vii) Our Council capacity application was recommended for full funding.

4) Projects – Open

- a) Brisbois Aspen Enhancement is complete except for aspen caging
- b) Rosebud riparian pasture fence complete
- c) Lewis Ck Juniper flagged and Contractors beginning
- d) RCPP outreach and field visit
- e) Mussel surveys: Emilie Blevens, Michelle Weaver, and Hannah will be coordinating mussel surveys on Murderers Creek the rest of this week, with mussel relocation in September.

5) Projects – Planning

- a) Sunflower – met with Jacob Young to start looking over projects, SFJDWC will find project sites and plan for a Fall OWEB application
- b) Caribou: SFJDWC will prep for a Fall OWEB application to treat the aspen in the Caribou Pasture of the Izee Ranch.

6) Discussion

- a) River Democracy Act: There are quite few people and groups writing in opposition and providing letters of comment. We were not able to participate in testimony for the Act during the 6/23/21 committee meeting. Individuals are urged to write letters or call their representatives and provide their own comments. Specific comments as to why certain stream segments should be removed from the proposal can be sent to Senator Wyden's office. We were told that we can participate in the creation of the management plans if the Act is passed.
- b) Pickup: Amy presented research on used pickups. Directors would like to see information on purchasing a new pickup. Suggestions to call dealerships and gather more info and possibly look into ordering a truck.

7) Coming Up

- a) 7/13-7/16: Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring Walk-thru
- b) 7/27-7/28: OWEB Meeting
- c) 8/11-8/14: Grant County Fair
- d) October 20th: RCPP Landowner/Contractor Site visit

- 8) **Adjourn**, Next meeting date: Monday, August 9th, 2021.