

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 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	Russ Powell, ODFW/Director	Brandon Ferguson, ODF	Kyle Sullivan, Grant SWCD	Aaron Roth, NRCS
Emma Gabrielle, FSA				

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 5 were represented at this meeting.

### 1. Agency Reports

- a. Emma Gabrielle, FSA: They are working through livestock drought program, and getting the crop insurance calculated and out the door. Producers can file a notice of loss if they are needing to haul water to livestock and FSA can provide cost share. FSA has a program for Timber harvester and haulers. They can compare revenue from 2020 to 2019 and pay up to 80% of losses. Amy S. asked about the rules for landowners carrying multiple federal contracts (RCPP, EQIP, CSP...) on the same property. Emma: the rule is that landowners can't have multiple federal agencies carrying contracts on the same landowner, CSP, EQIP, and RCPP, can't overlap. Can't do any of those 3 for life of the CRP grasslands contract. If have CSP you can still apply for EQIP or RCPP. Can't mix FSA with NRCS programs.
- b. Aaron Roth, NRCS: John Day office, COVID guidance is meet by appointment only. Have to wear mask in office. Can meet outside. CSP classic is in the application status. The EQIP/CIC applications are being worked through and getting contracted. Waiting on software update for mapping before finalizing RCPP contracts. Early to mid-November deadline for South Fork John Day RCPP 2022 applications for the lower two watersheds. Encourages landowners to work on application packets now.
- c. Kyle Sullivan, Grant SWCD: They are working on an in-stream project in Fox valley, concrete irrigation diversion fish passage barrier, replacing with roughened riffle. Also working on creek habitat features. Jeff Neal, is performing a stream assessment for Ritter area. Matt Wenick; working on BLM lands, and Ochoco Sunflower, Black Canyon, treating roads/rock pits. Also working with the Malheur NF, focusing on roads. Helicopter large scale Rejuvra treatment, 4500 acres throughout county. Hoping to make this an annual thing. Spraying 500 ac scotch thistle. Forestry RCPP: not ended, funded by NRCS and other partners. In year 4 of 5 year program. District this year took sign ups to continue forestry work, and received \$400,000 through OWEB. They are working on a Forestry Program from Mt. Vernon through the Upper John Day valley partnering with NRCS, Blue Mtn Forest Partners, and Firewise, seeking joint chief funding. Treat both private and public side of fence. Planning an OWEB grant to assess conditions on private lands. They are working with OSU to learn what to expect in water return from thinning projects.
- d. Brandon Ferguson, ODF: Moved from NW Oregon area. Working with South Fork John Day Forestry partnership, working with common lands, team lead on forestry work with NRCS. Writing proposals now for increased staffing to move through forest management plans. Working with Aaron and get understanding of 5 counties they are working with.

- e. Russ Powell, ODFW: Installed 30 BDAs on Tinker Ck, plus ODFW removed 3 culverts and put in 1 new plus instream work. Cultural people coming tomorrow for Pine Hollow and Little Indian. Implementing the Long Ck riparian fence project.

## 2. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- b. July Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- c. July Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- d. Schoolhouse Lease Agreement: Phil abstained, resulting in lack of quorum, electronic vote was performed. Russ Powell made the motion to accept the Schoolhouse Lease Agreement, Scott Hess 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the motion passed.

## 3. Staff Report

- a. Grant Proposals
  - i. Charlotte Martin Foundation proposal was successful to construct BDAs on Rosebud Creek
  - ii. Submitted the FIP Capacity OWEB application
- b. Projects – Open
  - i. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Rockpile Ranch annual grass treatment: working with Matt Wenick, to spray all of 640 acres on Magic Lantern with Rejuvra.
  - ii. RCPP outreach: Fair, newspaper, radio, cold calls, landowners can be submitting applications, and Hannah and I can be out planning projects.
- c. Projects – Planning
  - i. Caribou Aspen Health on the Izee Ranch, planning a Fall OWEB application
  - ii. Sunflower Allotment: set of 12-14 projects that we'll be submitting a Fall OWEB application.

## 4. Coming Up

- a. 8/11-8/14: Grant County Fair
- b. 8/18/2021: John Day Basin Partnership Drone Squadron Field Day
- c. 8/19/2021: John Day Basin Small Grant Teams meeting
- d. 9/7-9/17/2021: Murderers Creek mussel re-location
- e. 9/8-9/10/2021: South Fork John Day Bioassessment, send Richard email
- f. 9/28/2021: John Day Basin Partnership Full-Group meeting
- g. October 20<sup>th</sup>: RCPP Landowner/Contractor Site visit

5. **Executive Session, ORS 192.660(2)(a) and 192.660(7)**, To consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member or agent

6. Russ Powell moved to approve applying for administration of the JDBP Coordination position, Richard 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

7. **Adjourn**, Next meeting date: Monday, September 13th, 2021.