

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 8th day of November 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 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	Scott Hess
Mike Keerins	Aaron Roth	Brandon Ferguson	Jeff Maben	Richard Nelson

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

1. Agency Reports

- a. Brandon Ferguson, Oregon Department of Forestry: Currently going through grant opportunities for LSR grants as well as smaller grants. Allocating \$20M toward LSR, \$5M towards small woodlands firewise communities.
- b. Aaron Roth, NRCS: Landowner/Contractor Tour, thanks to all for hosting. Well attended successful event. Application deadlines for RCPP coming up November 19th. If in Upper Watersheds start thinking about projects for next year.

2. Action Items

- a. October Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve as mailed, Richard 2nd, motion passed
- b. October Staff Time: Phil moved to approve as presented, Richard 2nd, motion passed

3. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates
 - i. RCPP: Oct. 20th Landowner Contractor Tour had 45 with over a dozen contractors represented. SFJDWC has a list of contractors and their contact information to distribute to landowners that need it. We have completed the Cultural surveys supplemental agreement to contract surveys for the water developments. We anticipate these surveys being completed Spring of 2022. The deadline for Lower South Fork landowners to sign up is Nov. 19th. We have sent 2 postcards, called all landowners, set up a booth at the fair, and sat at the Wildlife Area for 2 days to outreach to landowners in the Lower South Fork.
 - ii. Landscape Scale Restoration on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area: Toured the area October 18th with ODF, ODFW, Jeff Maben, and SFJDWC. Discussed unit locations, and treatments
 - iii. R3 plantings: Hands are planting 250 plants along the SFJD
 - iv. Rosebud BDAs: laid out BDA locations, and applying for fish passage permit from ODFW, Phil ordered plants for his Rosebud CREP from Clear Water Nursery in Redmond, if anyone is needing a location for plants. Phil suggested looking at installing BDAs on other sub-tribs. We will give a presentation on Rosebud BDAs once they are done. LiDAR could give indications of good possibilities. ATLAS prioritization may also help.
 - v. BLM projects: Waiting on a signed decision from BLM, then will begin contractor selection and project implementation
 - vi. Tex Creek: Cultural clearance, ACOE permit application, next steps bid tour & contracting

- vii. Mussel recapture with Emilie and Michele. They were able to complete 1/3rd of the project reach in 2-days. Only found 4 dead, this is not alarming and may have been due to natural causes.
- b. Grant Applications & Results
 - i. Fall OWEB applications:
 - 1. Sunflower Upland Projects: Ochoco NF, 15 project components, 9 springs, 6 new and 3 re-developed, water guzzler, pasture and riparian fence.
 - 2. Caribou Aspen Health: 350 acres of pre-commercial thinning, and Juniper removal surrounding the large aspen stand in the pasture.
 - ii. Spring OWEB results: Secured all 5 grants we applied for, also had an awesome shout out from Sue Greer about our work with Aspen, during their October OWEB meeting.
 - iii. Oregon Wildlife Foundation for Antelope Juniper Removal: submitted an application for the removal of Juniper
 - 1. Since the OWF has shown us much support, SFJDWC Directors would like to invite out on tour to see all the projects they have supported.
- c. 2020-2021 Taxes: solutions, due Nov. 15th

4. Discussion

- a. Ellingson Mill Site: Directors were asked their thoughts on turning this site into a developed BLM recreation site. Richard Nelson stated that when IZ Ranch trails cattle to summer grazing allotments, that's the first place they can stop to water cattle. First piece of decent water/resting place. Would be tough for them if it became recreational. If they lose that and ability to water there, they're in trouble. Phil commented that he doesn't like idea of people using and abusing as is, but if it is developed it will get used more, more traffic, more people, more garbage, more weeds. If it is going to move forward, need to budget to maintain what they develop. Phil is in favor of taking a look at the riparian area issues of the South Fork John Day (drying up). Mike Keerins stated that power to the site has been removed. If have developed area, sometimes trash issue becomes worse because it attracts more people. Would rather see them put more money into their budget to bring someone out from Prineville to clean up along SF, to talk to people, take license #'s, that may get things cleaned up better.
- b. Roads and Streams: Directors discussed their thoughts on roads impacts on streams and re-locating roads, not closing roads. There would need to be a Cost/Benefit assessment. Directors suggested discussing with Sue Greer, see if anything has been done, or opinion on how to move forward. Phil would like to see grant money go into more practical on the ground projects. Forestry, Juniper, Springs. We need to be reasonable with Staff time and expense.

5. Coming Up

- a. November, helping Tribes plant a couple of days
- b. 11/11/2021: Veteran's Day SFJDWC Closed
- c. 11/25/2021: Thanksgiving SFJDWC Closed

6. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Monday, December 13th, 2021.