

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 13th day of December 2021.

The meeting was held via Conference Call and called to order at 1:00 pm, by Joanne Keerins.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Richard Nelson
Scott Hess	Amy Charrette	Cody Payne, Prineville BLM	Emma Gabriel, FSA	Jim Hamsher, Grant County Commissioner

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

1. Agency Reports

- a. Emma Gabriel, FSA: In D4 drought, 75% cost-share program, Emergency Conservation Program, Livestock wells and spring developments, Dec 31st deadline. Livestock forage program, deadline 1/30/22 for 2021 drought. Acreage reports, fall planting due on 12/25. 2022 deadline for crop insurance reports due 3/15 or 7/15/2022. Reimbursement available for Emergency livestock assistance program, hauling water to livestock in 2021. Can also reimburse for hauling feed. Scott: drought program, if sold cows because weren't bred, are they eligible for payment? If sold anything after May 26th may be eligible. If sold due to drought keep receipts and turn in, can keep on hand in case of future funding possibilities.
- b. Cody Payne, Prineville BLM Fisheries Biologist: New to position, started in July, worked 2.5 months then called up for active duty with National Guard. Learning position. Working on updated Murderers Creek Wildhorse management plan with Malheur National Forest. Waiting on final draft for comments. Sometime in next year working on BA for allotment permit renewals.
- c. Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs: wrapping up the year, getting ready for Holidays. Completed ISRP review, their programs had good review, able to move forward. Finalizing statement of work for 2022. They are planning for Murderers Creek riparian plantings and have funding for the Partnership coordinator position with the South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

2. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Requests: Phil moved to approve the request, Richard 2nd, motion passed
- b. November Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve the minutes, Richard 2nd, motion passed
- c. November Staff Time: Phil moved to approve the staff time, Richard 2nd, motion passed

3. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates
 - i. RCPP: Completed the 2nd round of sign-ups with 3 landowners enrolling in the Lower South Fork. We will be outreaching and taking sign-ups for a 3rd round for the entire South Fork Watershed in 2022. Interested landowners can contact Amy to schedule a time to review and set up projects.
 - ii. BLM projects: We have received a signed decision notice for the 12 aquatic projects. We have secured OWEB funding to implement 6 of these. We now have to wait for the 30-day comment period to pass and we can begin contracting and implementation if there are no objections.
- b. Grant Applications & Results

- i. Fall OWEB applications: We had our virtual review team meetings last week, thanks to Richard and Jacob Young for attending.
 - ii. OWEB Small Grants: We have submitted a small grant for Juniper removal of 50-acres on the Hands Smokey Creek property.
 - iii. ODF Small Woodland and Landscape Scale Grants: ODF has released a couple different funding opportunities. One is for ownerships less than 640 acres and one is larger landscape scale. We have a meeting with ODF to discuss possible projects on December 20th.
- c. 2020-2021 Taxes & Financial Report: Solutions has completed our 2021 tax filing. The total cost for them to prepare our taxes is just over \$1,000, but they donated \$400 worth of their time. We secured \$887,115 with the Fall grant awards, adding 7 projects, bringing our total number of projects up to 30. We have applied for 4 more projects this Fall, requesting \$479,496.

4. Discussion

- a. Director Terms: Joanne Keerins, Phil St. Clair, and Amy Charette are up for renewal this year, at our January 10th, 2022, meeting. I will check in with all of them to see if they are interested in serving another term.
- b. Looking into January 2022 we will be going through our annual requirements; Employee Reviews (online survey again), Annual Self-Assessment, County Court Update, Coffee Time
- c. New employee timeline and interview procedure. We will plan to fly the job by Mid January, and run it for 1 month. We will look to conduct interviews and make a selection by March so the new employee can hit the field season by April-May.

5. Coming Up

- a. 12/15/2021, 12:00-2:00 - South Fork John Day Forest Restoration Action Plan
- b. 12/20/2021, 1:30-3:30 – Small Forestland/Firewise Grant Opportunity Areas
- c. 12/24/2021-01/03/2022 – SFJDWC Winter Break
- d. 2/8/2022-2/10/2022 – River Restoration Northwest

6. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Monday, January 10th, 2022.