

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 10th day of January 2022.

The meeting was 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, Director
Jeff Maben, Director	Russ Powell, ODFW & Director	Pam Powell, ODFW & Alternate Director	Amy Charette, CTWS & Director	Scott Hess, Director
M.T. Anderson, Director	Mike Keerins, Alternate Director			

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

1. Agency Reports

- a. Aaron Roth, NRCS: Their offices are open by appointment only, because of COVID surge. The CSP classic will be opening this spring. EQIP/RCPD contracts will get done in next couple months, and SFJDWC will get cultural specialists out this Spring. They will hold their Local Workgroup meeting Feb 16th via zoom from 1-4 pm. NRCS and Grant SWCD submitted a Joint Chief's proposal for Forestry Work from Mt. Vernon to the upper end of the John Day valley. May have an annual grass CIS for Rejuvra treatment. They have a Basin wide stockwater proposal, to develop wells, cisterns, and incorporate wildfire component. Still in Drought conditions even with recent precip. Last couple weeks put us above annual snowpack, but still need more moisture to get out of drought conditions. 2023 RCPD applications for entire watershed. Work with SFJDWC to get maps and applications put together at any time.
- b. Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs: Offices closed this week, due to COVID. Getting ready for projects implemented this year, contracts will start Feb. 1st. Phil thanks Amy & nursery for providing extra trees to plant along his stretch of river.
- c. Brandon Ferguson, ODF: excited for NRCS opportunity to store water and use for wildfire mitigation. COVID continues to keep doors closed to public. SNOTEL still showing about 70% water yield, still need more moisture to help with fire season. New staff, previously had 3 foresters, will have 6 by end of January. They are planning to submit a Small forestland grant for about \$100,000. Community assistance grant for road buffers and fire breaks. Working on end of year reports, quarterly reports, and getting three grant proposals in.
- d. Russ Powell, ODFW Habitat: trying to get projects going by March 1st. 2 in middle fork, Tex ck, 1 on lower rock creek, hope to get them completed this year.
- e. Hannah Latzo, John Day Basin Partnership: Feb. 9th next meeting, Ian Tattum presents on fish numbers. More field trips to visit FIP projects, Middle Fork, Desolation. Starting up subbasin working groups. Get partners talking in each geography. There has been a lot of interest in the Agrimet Weather station, brought on by Wheeler SWCD. We will try to get one in the South Fork.

2. Action Items

- a. December Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve minutes as mailed, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- b. December Staff Time: Phil moved to approve Dec staff time as presented, Jeff 2nd, motion passed

- c. Director and Officer Elections
 - i. Phil moved to approve Amy C. as Director, Russ 2nd, motion passed
 - ii. Phil moved to approve Joanne as Director, Russ 2nd, motion passed
 - iii. Russ moved to approve Phil as Director, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
 - iv. Officer Elections: Phil moved to appoint Joanne as Chair, Jeff 2nd, Motion passed
 - v. Vice Chair: Jeff moved to appoint Phil, Russ 2nd, motion passed
 - vi. Secretary/Treasurer: Jeff moved to keep Scott, Phil 2nd, motion passed
 - vii. Associate Director discussion: Associate Directors are currently voted into the position, and we don't re-visit, and they seem to be appointed in perpetuity. We should maintain accurate Associate Director representation and make sure they are still interested in being listed as such for the Council.

3. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates
 - i. RCPP: looking into next round of signups for Fall 2022. Begin compiling projects from landowners throughout the entire Watershed. It would be helpful for landowners to know what eligible practices are. We are going to add paying for Well but won't pay on dry wells. Any wells are for stock water only, not irrigation or domestic.
 - ii. We are working to plan a Landscape Scale Restoration Forestry Educational program with Dayville School and OSU Extension
 - iii. LiDAR Acquisition is complete, and we have the data on-hand, Hannah is working on getting a training scheduled so we can learn how to use LiDAR.
- b. Grant Applications & Results
 - i. Oregon Wildlife Foundation for Antelope Juniper Removal was successful.
 - ii. Small Forestland Grant Program: Would like to put in an application for the Upper Mainstem, Juniper removal and pre-commercial thinning.
- c. Amy is working on 2021 1099's & Donation letters

4. Discussion

- a. Pickup update: the pickup we ordered from the Burn Ford dealer is in Portland and we hope to be able to get it soon.
- b. Position opening & Job Description: Directors reviewed the position description & project assignments
- c. Office Space: expanding into a 3rd room for \$200 increase/month, making our total rent \$560/month. We have Casey Fretwell, CPK Construction coming into remodel and the landlord will deduct the cost of the renovation from rent.
- d. Policies that Directors need to Create & Review: Maternity/Paternity Leave, Comp/Credit Accrual, Allowable Service Area
- e. OWEB direction: Climate Change & Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI). The SFJDWC has been asked to participate in testimony during the January OWEB meeting regarding OWEB's change in focus and the effects they may have on operations. Much of the work that we do already works to mitigate climate change. Some of the long-term benefits restoration provides is worth the short-term use of certain equipment types. Directors also asked that we don't lose site of the impacts of imposing DEI regulations on rural communities.
- f. Annual Self-Assessment (tabled to Feb meeting)

5. Coming Up

- a. 1/12/2022: Coffee Time
- b. 2/8-2/10/2022: River Restoration Northwest Symposium

- c. 2/14/2022: February SFJWC Meeting, Emigrant Creek Ranger District Update on Projects
 - d. 2/16/2022: 1:00 pm, NRCS Local Work Group Meeting, <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608633185>
 - e. 5/9/2022: May SFJWC Meeting, Ryan Torland, ODFW Wildlife Biologist, Big Game Report
 - f. 6/21-6/22/2022: Murderers Creek Range Research Summary, Murderers Creek Ranch House
 - g. Directors Requested that we try to schedule an update on the Wildhorse Management Plan from the Blue Mtn Ranger District and Prineville BLM
6. **Joanne moved the meeting into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2)(a) for Employee Reviews. At 2:45 the meeting returned to regular session. Jeff moved to accept the staff recommendations for Hannah and Amy, Richard 2nd, motion passed.**
7. **Adjourn**, Next meeting date: Monday, February 14th, 2022.

DRAFT