

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

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 14th day of March 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, at the Izee Ranch, by Joanne Keerins.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88994789228>, Meeting ID: 889 9478 9228, Dial by your location: +1 253 215 8782

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Richard & Vicki Nelson, Director
Jeff Maben, Director	Russ Powell, ODFW & Director	Pam Powell, ODFW	Amy Charette, Director & CTWSRO	Jack Vaughn, ODFW
MaryLou Welby, Malheur National Forest	Jim Dovenberg, Widows Ck Ranch	Brandon Ferguson, ODF	Aaron Roth, NRCS	

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 6 were represented at this meeting.

1. Agency Reports

- a. Aaron Roth, NRCS: RCPP contracting on hold, conservation stewardship program classic sign up is March 18th. Local Work Group meeting in February, 35-40 on Zoom. Conservation day event to introduce producers to partners, guest speakers, partner's booths, around pavilion, April 12th, Tuesday at Grant County fairgrounds.
CSP classic: anyone that hasn't applied to that or didn't get funded in part, general sign up for everybody. Program open to anyone in state, unlike EQIP or RCPP, CSP is open across entire county.
- b. Brandon Ferguson, ODF: working with 6 foresters now, 4 on NRCS work, Stewardship forester, and himself on NRCS and ARF work. Grant for hazardous fuel reduction, 30 or so landowners. Community assistance grant for fuels reduction along roadways, fuel break opportunities. Position closing, need for additional manager, closing tomorrow. May see new face within next month or 2. ODF offices starting to open back to the public May 1st. also plan to participate in conservation day.
- c. MaryLou Welby, Malheur National Forest Blue Mtn Ranger District: Bark project, Inter Disciplinary Team meetings for Bark, start refining proposed activities. Scoping for large EIS, Timber and Fuels focus in September. EIS signed or completion form by September 2024. Excited about some watershed restoration, collecting preliminary data, NSAEC geomorphologists. Connected with Anna Smith, BLM, in agreement with what they are seeing and talking about. Bob Foxworth is transferring.
- d. Russ Powell, ODFW: 2 projects on Middle Fork and one on Antone Ranch
- e. Jack Vaughn, ODFW Phillip W Schneider Wildlife Area: numerous snags with Murderers Ck & Tex Ck. Tex Creek, the way Tetra Tech set up the design and plans for the project do not meet state procurement requirements. Trying to find smooth process forward. But think financial impact will preclude immediate implementation. Originally the SFJDWC was planning to hold the contract for construction but contracting requirements have changed. Can't go out to bid with the designs that we have. Work to try to find a way, but not sounding promising. Murderers Creek, still plugging along. BOR trying to finalize cultural surveys this field season. Shouldn't run into design issues because BOR more flexible. Johnson-Tunnel juniper cut moving along. OWRD pivot project, waiting on agreement amendment for measurement letter. Wanted to let everyone know that he will be leaving ODFW at the end of June. ODFW plan to

have successor in before he's gone, time to get new person up to speed. Still 2 vacant positions at PWSWA now. Hopes to have good technician in place by end of month. Wants to keep everything moving and get new folks up to speed.

SFJDWC will sorely miss Jack, he has been an excellent partner to work with on the PWSWA.

- f. Amy Charette CTWS: Contracts in place for Partnership Coordination, getting projects ready for summer Vinegar to Vincent, plan to participate in conservation day. Resigning from CTWS, accepted job with OWEB, April 6th. Officially resigning from SFJDWC. We will greatly miss you! Good luck on new job. Drought resiliency program coordinator. Mostly in Klamath and Jefferson counties. Work remotely. Nicole Lexson, Stefan Kelley can contact in mean time.

2. Action Items

- a. February Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve as presented, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- b. February Staff Time: Phil moved to approve the February staff time as presented, Richard 2nd, motion passed
- c. Reimbursement Requests: Phil moved to approve, Russ 2nd, motion passed

3. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates
 - i. RCPP: 2022 sign ups open for entire South Fork John Day Watershed, with a Fall deadline.
 - ii. Johnson-Tunnel Juniper removal on the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area is almost complete
 - iii. Hole in ground bid tour will be taking place later in March.
 - iv. Juniper Workshop: Amy, Hannah, and Jeff Maben attended a workshop in Prineville to discuss how to better utilize Juniper and keep the supply to the mills.

4. Discussion

- a. Annual Self-Assessment: Comments, inclusion of Lower South Fork/expansion was a huge undertaking that the Council had to navigate, and the Board wants to make note of this success in the assessment. The Board would also like to put together Statistics, for funding and projects in the Lower South Fork.

5. Executive Session ORS 192.660 To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

Adjourned executive session. Phil motioned to offer Lindsay Bullock the office manager position, Jeff 2nd, motion passed.

6. Coming Up

- a. 3/15/2022: Hole in the Ground Bid Tour
- b. 3/31/2022: South Fork Fire Fence Re-build Tour with BLM & Wildlife Area
- c. 3/31/2022: Uplands Prioritization Meeting, 1:00 pm
- d. 04/04-04/08: Amy & Hannah, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Training
- e. 04/12/2022: NRCS Conservation Day, 10 – 3 Grant County Fairgrounds Pavilion
- f. 5/9/2022: May SFJDWC Meeting, Ryan Torland, ODFW Wildlife Biologist, Big Game Report

7. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Monday, April 11th, 2022.