

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 August 2020.

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

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latz, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director	Mike Keerins, Alternate Director
M.T. Anderson, Director	Justin Rodgers, BLM	Kathleen Cathy, Senator Wyden's Office	Richard Nelson, Director	Aaron Roth, NRCS	Russ Powell, Director
Scott Hess, Director					

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 7 were represented at this meeting.

I. Agency Reports

- a. **Aaron Roth, NRCS:** Working on Screening and Ranking questions for RCPP. Solidifying in next few weeks, SFJDWC has been out to couple site visits already to prioritize for funding opportunity. Try to get out and look at stock water and springs this fall to get a good idea of engineering needs. Producers will put in an application, then have a field visit the NRCS or SFJDWC staff will go through and rank the applications using the screening and ranking questions.
- b. **Justin Rodgers, BLM:** Ongoing projects: continue to complete fence segments after South Fork Fire. Purchasing more fence materials for the 2 remaining segments. They have been working with landowners with fires last year on Battle Creek. Sunflower Ck culvert, implementation next year, working with engineers on bypass and overflow. Wildhorse Management Plan is on the Forest Service's plate for Environmental Assessment. Grazing renewals, and rangeland health assessments; next priority for SF watershed is Keerins allotment with data collection next year. Restoration EA (springs) out for comment. Still in development phase for proposed actions. Kathleen, suggested commenting on the positive parts of the proposal. Joanne asked on the date for comment. Scoping period closed, but still opportunity to review drafts and provide input.
- c. **Russ Powell, ODFW:** Bid tour tomorrow on Dan and Orange Creek riparian fences. Tree harvest for Murderers Creek and Tex Creek projects later this fall.
- d. **Kathleen Cathy, Senator Wyden's Office:** Trying to make sure they are paying attention to people looking at opportunities in agriculture and natural resources. She encouraged people not to hesitate to reach out with questions/concerns/ideas. Directors asked about the Senator's roll in the Portland riots, Kathleen thought that things seem to be getting back on track. Ron has 21st century conservation corp bill, creating opportunity for conservation. Phil asked that Kathleen keep us updated on conservation legislation.

II. Action Items

- a. July Meeting Minutes: Phil moved to approve as mailed, Richard 2nd, motion passed
- b. July Staff Time: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- c. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2nd, motion passed

III. Staff Report

- a. SFJDWC Staff walked through the Project Inventory (attached to these minutes), to provide project updates.
- b. Partnerships/education/outreach/trainings
 - i. John Day Basin Partnership Outreach packets: Directors had received the packets, and felt there would be a perception of the partnership being a regulatory agency, and more government intrusion. They did think it was well put together.

IV. Discussion

- a. County Road Project: beginning this week. River between IZ and Phil. River channelized, undercutting hwy. if not addressed road will cave in. SFWC staff assist in fish salvage and re-planting.
- b. Jointed Goat Grass was found in Izee. It is an invasive annual grass.
- c. Directors thought that conducting a Weed Inventory in the South Fork Watershed
- d. Directors discussed wanting Biocontrols for knapweed
- e. SFJDWC Staff will be assisting Utah State University in Canada thistle biocontrol study

V. Coming Up

- a. 8/25/2020: John Day Basin Partnership Meeting

I. Joanne Adjourned the meeting at 2:07 pm, Next meeting date: Monday, September 14th 2020