

South Fork John Day Watershed Council

Meeting Agenda

July 11, 2022

1:00 p.m., Izee Schoolhouse

Conference #: (844) 857-5555, Access Code 5526001

Called to order at 1:03 by Joanne Keerins.

Attending:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair/Director
Jeff Maben, Director	Joanne Keerins, Chair/Director	Mike Keerins, Alternate Director	Allison Rayburn, ODF
Renee Hollowell, MNF	Cody Payne, BLM	Aaron Roth, NRCS	Jeff Moss, BLM
Jim Dovenburg	Richard Nelson, Director	Scott Hess, Director	

Quorum was present because there are currently 7 directors on the board and 6 were represented at this meeting.

1. Public Comment

2. Agency Reports

- a. Updates from attending agencies.
 - i. Aaron Roth, NRCS: NRCS is hiring two positions locally; one soil conservationist to replace Hannah Smith and a new position, a forester based at the ODF building intended to serve multiple counties. Another position is opening up soon as well when Lela Culpepper moves on. Current staff still plans to help with flagging, etc. on RCPP projects but may take a little longer with reduced staffing. RCPP application deadline in November.
 - ii. Renee Hollowell, MNF: Update on staffing: new Blue Mt. Ranger District ranger, Sally Christiansen from Willamette NF. Welcoming her aboard as of last week. Renee will email her contact info to Amy.
 - iii. Cody Payne, BLM: South Fork River Road will be closed at the Sunflower culvert sometime between July 18-22, for 1-2 days depending on the pace of the contractors. A temporary detour is being placed during the closure. Culvert project conclusion is expected in September. Project purpose is to increase the culvert weight capacity and improve habitat and passage.
- b. Allison Rayburn, ODF: Looking for feedback and outreach from landowners; provided a couple handouts detailing ODF's 2022 fire suppression resources, seasonal fire predictions, and managerial organizational charts. They are largely funded by landowners, and traditionally landowners don't like to pre-emptively pay, or can't, so ODF is a reactive agency and not a proactive one. Most of their preventive work comes from federal dollars.

3. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil motioned to approve, Jeff 2nd, no discussion. Passed.
- b. June Meeting Minutes: Phil motioned to approve, Jeff 2nd, no discussion. Passed.
- c. June Staff Time: Phil motioned to approve, Jeff 2nd, no discussion. Passed.
- d. Having internet access during council meetings would make the meetings much more user friendly and inclusive, as people who can only join by phone are unable to view presentations and have a difficult time hearing when background noise of any kind presents itself. Consensus in the room was agreeable, and Phil moved to direct Amy to investigate and pursue bringing internet access to the schoolhouse. Amy will email the council with results. If financially feasible, the council will decide to move forward at that time or investigate other options.

4. Staff Report

- a. Project Updates
 1. Tex Creek: This project is being scratched over design disagreements. ODFW engineers said no to the original design due to the specs used by the engineers as it did not match the ones they wanted to be used, but TetraTech refused to redo the specs without further funding. Project partners ultimately said it's not a high priority and not worth the funding. However, OWEB will reimburse

the time we spent on it. Moving forward, state level ODFW will be involved in addition to local level ODFW to hopefully prevent this from reoccurring.

2. Murderer's Creek: The amount of money originally awarded now is clearly not going to be sufficient, so we will be putting in for OWEB's Phase II funding in October. Designs have been sent to ODFW, so they are more involved, and the Dept. of Rec and individuals/partners specifically involved are more flexible than those involved in Tex Creek. This project is a higher priority than Tex Creek for several reasons and we don't expect similar problems.
 - ii. Grant Applications
 1. Goen to Fields – Ranked 6 of 8 and recommended for funding
 2. Bridge Creek Forestry – Ranked 5 of 8 and recommended for funding
 3. Indian Creek Diversion – Ranked 1 of 5 and recommended for funding
 - iii. Upcoming Opportunities: Title II (White Creek Riparian Fence, Aldrich Forest Health), America the Beautiful (\$200k-\$1.5mil, invasives treatment for portions of watershed, 20% nonfederal match – South Fork/Upper Mainstem Wildlife Habitat and Fire Resiliency)

5. Discussion

- a. Bylaws, Policy, and Procedures Review
 - i. Health insurance: Compared plans from Regence, MODA, Pacific Source, Providence, and Regence came in with the best plan and also the lowest premiums. The others are more expensive and include restrictions for in network and out of network providers.
 - ii. It doesn't save us any money to move to a set health insurance package. The more employees you have, the better deal you have, but at only two full-time employees, it doesn't make a difference compared to current HRA plan. Recommended to stick to current HRA option and add optional family coverage to employee HRAs.
 - iii. Language changes to Policies and Procedures: Part-Time PTO, Credit Hours, Parental Leave.
 - iv. Language Changes to Bylaws: Office Manager Job Description, Service Area.
6. **Phil made a motion to approve the Bylaw amendments. Jeff 2nd, no discussion. Approved. Policy/Procedure language to be considered and voted on at a future meeting.**
7. **Coming Up**
 - a. John Day Basin Partnership Fox Creek Site Tour 7.13.22
 - b. Murderers Creek Mussel Surveys 7.18-7.22
 - c. America the Beautiful Deadline 7.21
 - d. South Fork John Day Bioassessment 8.1-8.3
 - e. Grant County Fair 8.10-8.13
 - f. Title II Deadline 8.15
8. **Executive Session: ORS 192.660 (2)(a)** To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.
 - a. **Phil moved to approve executive session recommendation presented for Lindsay. Jeff 2nd, motion passed.**
9. **Adjourn;** next meeting date Monday, August 8, 2022.