

South Fork John Day Watershed Council

Meeting Agenda

December 12, 2022

1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85746874844>

Meeting ID: 857 4687 4844

One tap mobile

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Called to order at 1:02 by Joanne Keerins.

Attending:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC
Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director	Joanne Keerins, Chair
Mike Keerins, Alternate Dir.	Aaron Roth, NRCS	Richard Nelson, Director
Cody Payne, BLM	Jim Dovenburg	Scott Hess, Director
Anna Smith, BLM		

Quorum was present because there are currently 6 directors on the board and 5 were represented at this meeting.

1) Public Comment

- a) No public comment.

2) Agency Reports

- a) Aaron Roth, NRCS: Maurine Puffer starting Jan. 3rd. Interviewed for forester position but no luck filling the position; will re-ly the position soon. Looking to fill another soil con position soon as well. Equip cost share rates are at 75/90% (elevated) so projects will need to be prioritized. Inflation Reduction Act funds are tiered on a national level, although each state has a say; landowners have the ability to submit comments on what projects are priorities until Dec. 21 and Amy will share the email that has the information on the comment period. In the meantime, the priorities are already set for the year, so NRCS has to follow those.
- b) Cody Payne and Anna Smith, BLM: A road was being used up Deer Creek that is being repaired to mitigate any damage. Next round of Good Neighbor Authority proposals coming up in February.

3) Action Items

- a) Staff Reimbursement Request – Phil motioned to approve, Jeff 2nded, no discussion, approved.
- b) November Meeting Minutes – Scott motioned to approve, Richard 2nded, no discussion, approved.
- c) November Staff Time – Phil motioned to approve, Jeff 2nded, no discussion, approved.

4) Staff Report

- a) Pending Applications & Application Results
 - i) Title II: White Creek Riparian Fence – submitted last month, successful application.
 - ii) Oregon Conservation Recreation Fund: Snow Mtn Aspen Protection – not successful, not a big enough recreation component.
 - iii) OWEB: Lewis Creek Headwaters Restoration – had to reschedule site visit (virtual) due to jury duty.
- b) RCPP – 12 owners signed up during the November roundup; NRCS contracting deadline in May; cultural resources surveys after that.
- c) Brisbois Aspen – Wrapped up. Last of the cages put in right before the snow came in. Final report done this week.
- d) BLM GNA – Wrapping up; small fence around a spring and then finished.
- e) Goen 2 Fields – putting trail cams up mimicking the research article from Ryan Platte (shared via email earlier this week).
- f) Johnson-Tunnel – piles burned; need to do photo points and build one more spring, then the project is done.
- g) Bridge Ck Forestry – waiting until the snow is lessened before starting that work, then pre-commercial thinning will start.
- h) Murderers Ck in-stream project – set to be implemented in the 2023 in-stream window. ODFW will be able to do that work so we won't have to contract out.

5) **Discussion**

- a) Stakeholder Engagement Survey Results – 18 landowners responded with a variety of priorities; we consider this a strong response.
- b) River Democracy Act update – Would add more creeks and tributaries, and the language changes would make operations more difficult. Historically, there has been ill effect when working with any agencies to design plans of this nature due to the lack of management after the effect, and the people and organizations who do active restoration find their hands tied. The Utley Roadless Area is a prime example of the aftereffects of plans like this, with good intentions but lack of proper management. The comment period is open, and the council would like to submit a letter stating specifically what we would like to continue being able to do.

6) **Coming Up**

- a) 12/14/2022: John Day Basin Partnership Meeting
- b) 12/24/2022-01/03/2023: SFJDWC Winter Closure
- c) 01/09/2023: SFJDWC Director & Officer Elections
- d) 01/17/2023: Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Utley Roadless Area Meeting

7) **Adjourn**, Next meeting date: **Monday, January 9th, 2023**