

**South Fork John Day Watershed Council
Meeting Agenda
January 9th, 2023**

1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

Called to order at 1:05 by Joanne Keerins.

Attending:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Amy Stiner, SFJDWC | Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC | Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC |
| Jeff Maben, Director | John Rowell, County Commissioner | Jim Dovenburg |
| Kelly Howard | Scott Hess, Director | Joanne Keerins, Chair |
| Mike Keerins, Alt. Director | Aaron Roth, NRCS | Cody Payne, BLM |
| Richard Nelson, Director | | |

Quorum was present with 4 of 6 directors present.

1. Public Comment

- a. No public comment.

2. Agency Reports

- a. Aaron Roth, NRCS: Feb. 16 Work Group Meeting, in person from 1-4 p.m. at the ODF building in John Day. Staffing update: Maureen started a week ago; the Forester position was not filled nor the soil con position. 2nd annual Natural Resource Fair planning meeting held last week; more details to come. Conservation Stewardship classic program deadline in March; ranked by April; more to come on that as well.
- b. Cody Payne, BLM: Approval to restore the road being used across Deer Creek. Grant opportunity from ODFW for fish screening passages available.
- c. John Rowell, Commissioner: Came to observe and learn to hopefully be able to help in some way in future endeavors. John can be reached at jrowell@grantcounty-or.gov and encourages council to reach out with ideas and communications, as well as future meetings and field trips.

3. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Scott motioned, Jeff 2nded, no discussion, approved.
- b. December Meeting Minutes: Jeff motioned, Richard 2nded, no discussion, approved.
- c. December Staff Time: Jeff motioned, Richard 2nded, no discussion, approved.
- d. Director Elections: Although the quorum was present, elected members are recused from voting for themselves; therefore, elections will need to be tabled until the February meeting with more directors present to vote.
- e. Chair Election: See above
- f. Vice Chair Election: See above
- g. Secretary/Treasurer Election: See above
- h. Hire a Summer Intern: An intern would be beneficial to Amy and Hannah by taking on the workload of some of the projects including: cage plantings; monitor BDAs and beaver activity, deploy temp loggers, process years of temp logger data, walk miles of BLM fencing, photo point monitoring, documenting dry channels, mapping projects, and more. Partners are all hiring currently so if we are going to hire it will need to be soon. Approximate cost \$7,200. Jeff motioned to hire for an intern, Richard 2nded, no discussion, approved. Scott asked if the temp loggers are just temperatures or also record flow. They just do water temps, although there are some that record air temps at the same time, and we have looked into getting some that do also measure stream flow. We have 8 years of Amy's temp logging data, and the Tribes have some from a handful of years prior to that – An abundance of data just sitting and waiting to be logged.

4. Discussion

- a. River Democracy Act Comment Letter – Scott commented that it would be helpful to add examples to the letter to be more effective (listing specific roadless and wilderness areas). Otherwise, Council felt that the letter was good; Amy will make minor changes and send letter for final review before sending to its intended recipients.
- b. Year End Review: Amy presented a brief overview of the SFJDWC's year end total figures, including contractors employed (22) landowners served (13), active projects (17), total funds for open projects (\$3.1m), funds spent (~350k) and secured (~583k), projects completed (7) and new (5), active partnerships (14), etc.

- c. John Rowell wanted to mention to the council a 2/22/23 Work Session – ideas to include a public safety levy to finance additional sheriff’s department patrol officers; changing county government to 3 commissioners and an administrator rather than a judge, each commissioner representing a geographical third of the county. He has mentioned this to a multitude of people in hopes of garnering other ideas and feedback.

5. Coming Up

- a. 1/11/2023: Tribes Coordination Meeting
- b. 1/16/2023: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, SFJDWC Offices Closed
- c. 01/17/2023: Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Utley Roadless Area Meeting
- d. 2/15/2023: John Day Basin Partnership Full Group Meeting
- e. 2/16/2023: NRCS Local Work Group Meeting

6. 2:17 - Executive Session: Employee Reviews

7. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Monday, February 13th, 2023