

**South Fork John Day Watershed Council  
Meeting Agenda  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse**

Called to order at 1:02 by Joanne Keerins.

**Attending:**

|                                   |                          |                         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Amy Stiner, SFJDWC                | Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC     | Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC |
| Jeff Maben, Director              | Phil St. Clair, Director | Jim Dovenburg*          |
| John Rowell, County Commissioner* | Scott Hess, Director*    | Joanne Keerins, Chair   |
| Mike Keerins, Alt. Director       | Aaron Roth, NRCS*        | Brie Porter, BLM*       |
| Richard Nelson, Director          | MT Anderson, Director    | Lauren Osborne, CTWS*   |
| Kevin Chen, ODF                   | Nicole S., CTWS*         | Brandon Ferguson, ODF*  |
| Joe Spencer                       | Ryan Torland, ODFW       | Jake Buce, ODFW         |
| Dan Summer, ODFW                  | Travis Sparrow, CTWS     | Jake Dittel, ODFW       |
| Torren Walton, ODFW               |                          |                         |

\*Remote attendee

**Quorum was present with 6 of 6 directors in attendance.**

**1. Public Comment**

**2. Agency Reports**

- a. Updates from attending agencies.
  - i. Aaron, NRCS: Thursday work group meeting at ODF conference room 1-4 p.m. Discussing where funding has been spent and where it will be spent in future and getting input from landowners and producers. RCPP applications are getting ranked and finalized in the next couple months.
  - ii. Kevin, ODF: Contracted the crews for the wildlife area; don't know if they've been able to get started yet, but 125 planned acres.
  - iii. Dan, ODFW: Flat Cr Enhancement – going to get the pivot installed before irrigation this year; then money dependent, they can go look at repairing dam or dike up on bottom reservoir. Murderers creek enhancement – they got done pulling trees up south fork basin; they'll start hauling them off in June and start instream work in July.
- b. ODFW District Wildlife Biologist Ryan Torland, Staffing update & Mule Deer and Elk Studies.
  - i. The plan is to set 80 collars on elk in Grant County: specifically 10 in Murderers Creek and 5 in Izee Country. GPS collars should collect 2 points a day and last a few years. They predict that they will learn that elk move around more than previously thought. Overall, it's a fairly simple project and they should be able to give us an update in about a year.
  - ii. A survey in the Starkey Experimental Forest showed a lack of nutrition in does leading to poor fawn survival (<90 days). Murderers Creek Area was chosen as a follow up study area for a 5 year project. It's a nutrition and predation study: collaring does, insert an implant that catches fawns as they're born. The collars send a mortality signal so they can get out to the deer asap and ascertain the cause of death to get a better idea of what is actually causing the lack of deer in the area. 10 staff in the summer and 2 in the winter.

**3. Action Items**

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request –Phil motioned to approved, Jeff seconded, no discussion, approved.
- b. December Meeting Minutes – Phil motioned to approved, Richard seconded, discussion held, approved.
- c. December Staff Time – Phil motioned to approved, Richard seconded, no discussion, approved.
- d. Director Elections: Up for election are Scott Hess, Richard Nelson, 1-Vacant Position. These positions are for three years.

- i. Phil moved/Richard seconded Scott Hess as a director, no discussion, approved unanimously (nominated director abstained from vote).
  - ii. Phil moved/Jeff seconded Richard Nelson as a director, no discussion, approved unanimously (nominated director abstained from vote).
  - iii. Phil moved/Jeff and Richard seconded Jim Dovenburg as a director, no discussion, approved.
- e. Chair Election – Phil motioned/Jeff seconded Joanne Keerins as Chair, no discussion, approved unanimously (Chair abstained from vote).
- f. Vice Chair Election – Richard motioned/Jeff seconded Phil St. Clair as Vice Chair, no discussion, approved unanimously (Vice Chair abstained from vote).
- g. Secretary/Treasurer Election – Phil motioned/Jeff seconded Scott Hess as Secretary/Treasurer, no discussion, approved unanimously (Secretary/Treasurer abstained from vote).

#### 4. Staff Report

- a. BLM meeting update
- b. GCC update
- c. Grant Applications
  - i. SFJDW Monitoring – Bella Vista Foundation
  - ii. Murderers Creek Habitat Restoration Phase II – USBOR WaterSMART Grant
  - iii. Battle Creek Juniper & Springs - OWEB
  - iv. High Izee Upland Restoration - OWEB
  - v. BLM Water Development Updates – OWEB
  - vi. Lewis Creek Headwaters Restoration – OWEB Fall cycle
- d. Continuing Education
  - i. River Restoration Northwest
  - ii. American Fisheries Society Annual Conference
  - iii. Wildlife Conservation Society Annual Conference
  - iv. OWEB New Grantee/NFJDWC collaboration

#### 5. Discussion

- a. Logo
- b. HB3142: Juniper Removal funding by County/Entity

#### 6. Coming Up

- a. Annual Council Self-Assessment – TBD
- b. 2/6-2/9/2023: River Restoration Northwest
- c. 2/8/2023: OWEB grantee training
- d. 2/15/2023: John Day Basin Partnership Full Group Meeting
- e. 2/16/2023: NRCS Local Work Group Meeting
- f. 2/20/2023: President’s Day, SFJDWC closed
- g. 2/21/2023: ODF Annual Chili Cook-Off
- h. 2/22 – 2/23/2023: Wildlife Conservation Society Conference
- i. 2/28-3/3/2023: American Fishery Society Conference
- j. 3/13/2023: Emigrant Creek Ranger District Utley Roadless Area Update
- k. 4/18/2023: Grant County Natural Resource Fair

#### 7. Executive Session to review watershed intern applicants

- a. Due to time constraint, the executive session was not held. The board consensus was that Amy will oversee and implement the process for the internship interview and hiring process.

#### 8. Adjourn, 3:19 p.m. Next meeting date: **Monday, March 13th, 2023**