

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

**Called to order at 1:03 by Joanne Keerins.**

**Attending:**

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC
Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director	Jim Dovenburg, Director
Richard Nelson, Director	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Mike Keerins, Alt. Director
*Aaron Roth, NRCS	MT Anderson, Director	*Stephanie McKinney, BLM
*Elena Burllet, BLM	*Jake Buce, ODFW	

\*Remote attendee

*Quorum was present with 6 of 7 directors in attendance.*

**1. Public Comment**

- a. **No public comment**

**2. Agency Reports**

- a. Updates from attending agencies
  - i. Aaron Roth, NRCS: staffing – have advertised for soil comp and NRCS/ODF forester and waiting for applicants. Local work group meeting had ~40 people turn out. Upcoming deadlines: CSP Classic and CSP IRA both have a deadline of 3/31 with funding at \$200,000. NRCS has received Joint Chiefs funding for this year, which means funding for 3 years from Mt. Vernon to above Prairie City for pre-commercial thinning, juniper thinning, etc. There is a deadline of 4/7 for that program.
  - ii. Stephanie McKinney, BLM: Some staffing updates are happening, and Stephanie will send the information to Amy. Regarding Agenda Item 5b, the state office completed EA level, local office determines NEPA, if list of projects is covered in EA, then quick cover to that EA, scope and scale. There will also be an EA in the next month or two or so regarding the wild horses on the Murderers Creek Joint Management Area.
  - iii. Jake Buce, ODFW – Contracted with Jeff Maben to clear trees and do fence work at an overrun area on Murderers Creek; did some juniper clearing; got business cards made for a future meeting. The March survey on deer and elk is mostly done and he will try to bring the numbers with him next month.
- b. Emigrant Creek Ranger District Utley Roadless Area Update – the ECRD was not in attendance for the meeting.

**3. Action Items**

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request – Phil motioned to approved, Jeff seconded, no discussion, approved.
- b. February Meeting Minutes – Phil motioned to approved, Jeff seconded, no discussion, approved.
- c. February Staff Time – Phil motioned to approved, Jeff seconded, no discussion, approved.

**4. Staff Report**

- a. Grant Applications
  - i. SFJDW Monitoring – Bella Vista Foundation: For a boost in our intern funding, supplies, and helping to fund with our Dayville School program. We were recommended for funding for ~\$20,000.
  - ii. ODFW Screening & Passage Program – Widows Ck Diversions: \$167,000 approved out of a \$300,000 ask.
  - iii. Murderers Creek Habitat Restoration Phase II:
  - iv. Battle Creek Juniper & Springs – OWEB: Working with GSWCD and NRCS; new owner trying to get projects started. Juniper cut for first project, then Matt Wenick can come in and do some annual grass treatments.
  - v. High Izee Upland Restoration – OWEB: Juniper, forestry, aspen, springs, working with Jeff Maben.
  - vi. BLM Water Development Updates – OWEB: working with BLM and Wildlife Area on 20+ y.o. water developments that are past time for updates.
  - vii. Corral Creek Upland Habitat – OWEB: Lemons’ property along border of USFS, may put off to a Fall submittal for the projects (forestry, juniper, springs, etc.).

**5. Discussion**

- a. Annual Council Self-Assessment – The council worked through the annual self-assessment.
  - b. BLM Aquatic EA Scoping Package.
  - c. Intern Position – the Board came to a consensus that we can raise the pay level to in order to create more interest.
- 6. Coming Up**
- a. 4/18/2023: Grant County Natural Resource Fair
- 7. Adjourn, 3:19 p.m. Next meeting date: Monday, April 10th, 2023**