

**South Fork John Day Watershed Council
Meeting Agenda
June 12th, 2023
1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse**

Called to order at 1:01 by Phil St. Clair.

Attending:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC
Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director	*Jim Dovenburg, Director
*Aaron Roth, NRCS	Richard Nelson, Director	*Kyle Sullivan, Associate Director/Grant SWCD
John Rowell, County Commissioner	Austin Reimers, ODF	

*Remote attendee

Quorum was present with 5 of 7 directors in attendance.

1. Public Comment

- a. No public comment.

2. Agency Reports

- a. Aaron Roth, NRCS: Finalizing RCPP contracts; updating privacy releases. Received additional NEPA funding for Ritter area (pre-commercial thinning with juniper component). CSP results out and quite a few were funded, so working through field visits on those. Working on joint chief's applications, too.
- b. Kyle Sullivan, Grant SWCD: Field season delayed by a month with long winter; working with OSU to do rapid assessment of tree habitat on private land for landowners; prioritize funding with grants; storymapping their work in the uplands. Culvert work in Galena/Ritter this summer. Doing Firewise work around the edges of seven cities in the county. 5-yr agreement with helicopter company to do weed spraying, runs about \$23/acre so fairly cost effective.
- c. Austin Reimers, ODF: Kevin Chen moved back into helitac crew for the fire season; David Helmricks is taking his position. Austin is the new Stewardship Forester, replacing Kirk Ausland. Fire Season is in effect as of June 9 and he has brought the guidelines with him. July 1 is the start of the new fiscal year and agency budgets are in place.
- d. John Rowell, County Commissioner: The wolf predation issue remains; BLM changes are taking place and there is a resource advisory committee meeting on July 13th (6 p.m.) that will hopefully shed some light on these changes. In 2 or 3 years the county will likely be facing some severe and significant budget shortages. Public safety patrol availability is still the same problem it was.

3. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request
 - i. Jeff Maben motioned to approve; Richard Nelson seconded the motion; no discussion; motion carried.
- b. May Meeting Minutes
 - i. Jeff Maben motioned to approve; Richard Nelson seconded the motion; no discussion; motion carried.
- c. May Staff Time
 - i. Jeff Maben motioned to approve; Richard Nelson seconded the motion; no discussion; motion carried.

4. Staff Report

- a. Grant Applications
 - i. Charlotte Martin Foundation – High Izee BDAs
 - 1. To complement the OWEB High Izee Enhancements grant project request
 - ii. OWEB – South Fork John Day Aquatic Monitoring with Prineville BLM
 - 1. Next summer with an intern or FT position
- b. Education & Outreach
 - i. Northwest Youth Corp

5. Discussion

- a. ODF Forest Protection District Budgets
 - i. It is past our timeline to send a letter of comment, but there is a great concern about the increase in costs for private landowners. Per Austin, in the middle of a legislative session affected by the walkout. A special session may need to be called in order to get budgets fixed by July 1. General fund was ~\$15million for last biennium, but they're not 100% sure what it will look like for this one. If there is no general fund offset, the proposed timber rate would be \$3.03/acre (\$2.21 previously) and grazing would be \$1.38/acre (\$0.74/acre previously). If there is a general fund offset the rates would be somewhere in between those numbers. This is to provide an adequate level of protection.
- b. Expansion
 - i. There is an area of the current watershed and JD headwaters that is left uncovered by current agencies/partners. Currently serviced by the Tribes and Grant SWCD who focus on their lands. It's a high priority area and would be a competitive agency if someone started a new council there; it makes more sense for us to expand and cover it ourselves. NOWC, OWEB, and the John Day Basin Partnership asked if we would bring this to the Board so the area can be covered. NFJWC is not interested in the Upper Mainstem as their service area is already too large. If we move forward we would notify OWEB, and get County Court approval. It could take 6 months plus to absorb the area. We will revisit next meeting.

6. Coming Up

- a. 7/6/2023 – OWEB Site Visits

7. Adjourn 3:11 p.m. Next meeting date: **Monday, July 10th, 2023**