

Harney County Watershed Council
450 N Buena Vista Avenue #4
Burns, OR 97720

Mission and Purpose of the Harney County Watershed Council:

The Council recognizes that local ecological and economic prosperity is dependent upon the current and future availability of water; therefore, the Harney County Watershed Council is committed to this three-part goal:

- A. Determine the health of individual watersheds or watershed segments.
- B. Retain the health of high quality watersheds and,
- C. Restore and enhance those watersheds or portions thereof that can be improved.

Minutes of January 17, 2017

(members present will be presented in BOLD type)

John Sword – Drewsey	- Guano	– Alvord
Fred Otley – Diamond	– Landowner Gen	– H/M Lakes
Angie Ketscher – Silver Creek	Dustin Johnson – Education	Brandon Haslick – Paiute Tribe
Brenda Smith – C/C Burns/Hines	Mark Owens - C/C at Large	Diane Rapaport– C/C Gen
Christine Bates – Environmental	Mitch Willis – Sportsman	Jamie McCormack – BLM
Pat Sharp – SWCD	Dan Nichols– HC Court	Rachel Beaubien – Silvies

Advisory members

(members present will be presented in bold type)

Dave Banks– ODF&W	Zola Ryan – NRCS
Chad Karges--MNWR	Tony Svejcar – EOARC/ARS
- USFS	JR Johnson - OWRD

Guests present: Joe Witzel

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm

Additions to the Agenda: Dustin asked for the Irrigation Seminar to be added to the agenda.

Minutes: Minutes from both November and December were reviewed. Mark Owens moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Brenda Smith seconded and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed and members had several questions. Karen was asked if she would like more training in Quickbooks. There was discussion about changing our CPA who has been working on quarterly reports and taxes. The decision was made to change CPA's in order to use the other company for audits in the future. Karen will call and let the CPA know our plans for the future. Karen presented an excel spreadsheet with a budget from all of the grants. Council members asked if she could update the budget with dollars spent for each grant at the next meeting.

Correspondence: There was not correspondence presented tonight.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Chris Bates gave a short update. There was discussion on the amount of snow we have been getting this year, and the damage it is causing to buildings in the community.

Coordinators Report: the coordinator's spreadsheet was reviewed.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning: The Sub-committee met earlier this afternoon to discuss the meeting. After much discussion they decided to wait to see what the weather and roads are like tomorrow morning before deciding whether to go ahead with the meeting or to postpone it. Those helping with small groups are asked to meet at the Chamber meeting room by 3pm.

Groundwater Study Advisory Committee: The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee will meet at the Chamber meeting room this Thursday for their quarterly meeting. There will be a presentation by Jerry Grondin on measuring and a field trip in the afternoon to actually measure a well and let members see how the equipment works. Angie Ketscher has been hired for the local monitoring network. The sub-committee is still identifying which wells the local network will monitor, 50% will be the same as the state wells, 50% will be different wells.

Range Camp: Dates for Range Camp have been determined. College camp will be April 27th thru 30th. High School camp will be June 21 thru 24, 2017. Gabby Johnson has been hired as the new coordinator. Materials are being prepared and advertising needs to start soon. Sponsors from last year will be contacted.

There was discussion about forming an education committee to help with regular educational planning for the Council. Gabby could be included on this committee. The HBWI outreach with an event at the Research Center for the Bird Festival could be included. A motion was made by Mark Owens to form an Education committee. Rachel Beaubian seconded and the motion passed. Volunteers for this committee included Chris Bates, Jamie McCormack, Brenda Smith and Karen Moon.

Kids Club Outdoor School: Karen and Brenda met with Michelle from the Kids Club to see about getting the Outdoor School project going again for this spring/summer. This could also fall under the education committee's responsibilities.

New Business

Harney Basin Wetlands – Lidar for Silver Creek Sub-basin: Zola Ryan was present to talk about a grant with the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative in which the Council will act as fiscal agent. The grant application is being prepared to be submitted in February to OWEB through the Focused Investment Program. There was discussion on Lidar and how it would be helpful. Zola explained that Lidar is very accurate topographic information that is obtained by an aircraft shooting a laser at the ground from an airplane. Lidar was flown over all of the Refuge and portions of the Silvies Sub-basin and lower Silver Creek several years ago. Partners on the project will include NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and DOGAMI. The analysis will help to determine where best to help control carp, where flood control structures could be beneficial. The projects area is approximately 717 square miles and the cost will be similar to the Refuge and FEMA project.

Costs are estimated at around \$320,000.00. NRCS will house the information gathered from the project and the data will be available publicly for future projects.

Irrigation Seminar: Dustin Johnson presented a flyer for the Irrigation Seminar to be held on Monday, February 6 at the Community Center. Karen will forward the completed flyer to the email lists and will post to the Facebook page for advertisement. All members are encouraged to get the word out about the seminar. There will be no registration fee for this event to the public but there are still costs involved for the speakers to travel to Burns. The SWCD has pledged \$500 as a contribution for travel. Karen can help collect the donations and write the checks for travel. Mark Owens moved to have the Council help support the seminar up to \$2000.00. Rachel Beaubien seconded and the motion passed. Karen will help with lunch.

Board Member Handbook: Karen worked on putting together a binder for each board member. The book includes a copy of the council's policies, bylaws, and mission along with board member expectations. There was a discussion on board membership. Karen was asked to contact John Sword and Mitch Willis to see if they are interested in staying on the council. Brenda has been in contact with the Forest Service and there is a possibility that we will have a new representative soon.

Election of Officers was next on the agenda. Nominations included Rachel Beaubien for Chairman, Brenda Smith for Vice-Chairman and Dustin Johnson for Secretary. Motion was made by Chris Bates to accept the slate of officers, Jamie McCormick seconded and the motion passed. It was noted that Chris Bates should be removed as a signor on the bank account and Rachel Beaubien added.

Joe Witzel was present at this evening's meeting; he is interested in joining the Council in the Harney/Malheur Lakes landowner position. Joe will write a letter of interest for the next meeting.

A discussion on "wants" for the council for the next biennium included: creating several more committees that may include a budget committee, a volunteer committee and a publicity committee. Council members would like to have more training and be able to meet the needs of the community. Council members would like to have more information on projects the council is working on.

Items for next agenda: Revised budget, Community Water Planning, Groundwater Study update, Irrigation Seminar review

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be February 21, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator