

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 April 18, 2017

(members present will be presented in BOLD type)

John Sword – Drewsey	- Guano	Raven Wing – Alvord
Fred Otley – Diamond	Pat Sharp – Landowner Gen	Joe Witzel – 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 McCormick– BLM
– SWCD	Mark Owens – 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
Jordan VanSickle - USFS	JR Johnson - OWRD

Guests present: John Thelen, Ben McCanna, Harmony Burright - OWRD

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator, Gretchen Bates – PBP project manager, Amy Smith – Burns High School , Jordan ____ - Agrimet

The Coordinating Committee of Place Based Planning met starting at 4:30pm. The Coordinating committee met to review the conceptual model that is being developed for the Collaborative.

The Monthly meeting of the Council began after a short break.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm. Introductions were made around the room.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Biology trip presentation: Amy Smith from the Burns Biology Club was present to give a presentation on the recent trip that the High School biology kids took to the Oregon Coast. She shared their trip to the Alsea fish hatchery where kids learned about salmon and were also able to dissect both salmon and rainbow trout. The kids also toured the Hatfield science center. They had a good time even though it was a cold weekend.

Minutes: Minutes for the March meeting were reviewed. Angie Ketscher moved to approve the minutes as presented. Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed. Karen also brought an updated budget spreadsheet which was reviewed. Gabby Johnson is the new Range Camp coordinator, she has received several donations for camp. Karen will get those next week. Gretchen & Jon Bates pledged to give a sponsorship again this year. Mark Owens moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence presented tonight.

Coordinators Report: Karen reported on the projects she has been working on. The coordinator's spreadsheet was left out of the packet this evening.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Rachel Beaubien gave a short report. Rachel had compiled a list of projects that the Council has talked about over the last several meetings. She had a handout and each council member was asked to look through it and bring back ideas to the next meeting.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning: Gretchen Bates, gave a progress report on the CBWP. Our next quarterly meeting will be tomorrow, April 19, from 5-8pm at the Community Center. There was a Water Availability Work group meeting held on April 5 with Michael Campana from OSU giving a Hydrology 101 presentation.

There was discussion on who should attend the Sustainable Northwest Conference for our Place Based Planning pilot. It was thought that Gretchen, Brenda, Mark and Dustin should attend. Possibly Brandon.

Travel reimbursement for Michael Campana was discussed. Travel reimbursement should be available through the Place Based Planning grant. Angie Ketscher moved to reimburse Michael Campana for travel costs incurred for the April Water Availability Workgroup meeting and for meetings he may attend in the future. Mark Owens seconded and the motion passed. There was discussion on a schedule for Michael to return to the planning process and what information he can provide.

The Council reviewed the conceptual model that is being worked on for the Collaborative. It was noted that the Water Availability work group will meet almost monthly and report back to the Quarterly Collaborative meetings. There was a discussion on starting more work groups, one for Water Quality. There was discussion on the support resources and the coordinating group focuses on process and helping to provide expertise and information to the full group.

The purpose of the collaborative is to create an integrated water plan for Harney County.

Mark Owens reported that he had investigated the “injured well report” with OWRD and at the current time there is no such form. OWRD is reviewing their policies and may be able to create a venue to have problems reported.

The Meyer Memorial Trust application has been submitted. Ken and Karen will work on a 319 application for DEQ. There may still be other opportunities to supplement the PBP funds.

Groundwater Advisory Committee: Will meet this Thursday, April 20th at the Community Center from 11 am – 4pm. There will be a presentation by USGS on the principles of hydrology in closed basins. There will be an update on the synoptic well measurements and information on well construction standards.

Local Groundwater Monitoring Network: Angie Ketscher reported that she has 39 wells so far that are acceptable to measure. An acceptable well is one that includes a well log and is able to be measured without obstructions. There was questions about when well data would be available from the local monitoring network. Eventually all data will be available. OWRD data will be available through their website.

Fair in the Field: Pat Sharp, Raven Wing and Karen will put together a presentation for Thursday and Friday for the kids. Even though it was kind of nasty weather, the kids enjoyed learning about watersheds, where water comes from and the fact that the Harney Basin is a “closed” basin. All together there were 34 kids who traveled through 10 stations. See the EOARC face book page or High Desert Partnership website. Pat Sharp thought that the kids were very engaged. She asked about including the Rural schools in future events.

Science in the Sagebrush Steppe (College Range Camp): Camp will take place next week. So far reservations have been received from six colleges. Forty seven students are expected with six advisors. Camp takes approximately 28 volunteers that are involved at different times to make camp work. Brenda Smith stated she still needs judges for the CCAA management plans.

New Business

HBWI update: Brenda Smith reported on the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative, and the Focused Investment Partnership grant received from OWEB. The Watershed Council has been a member of the Initiative and FIP for a number of years. Funding for the FIP is approximately 6 million dollars over a six year period. The purpose of this partnership is to improve aquatic health within Malheur Lake and to enhance and maintain flood irrigated wet meadows on private lands to support migratory birds. The Council has several OWEB grants through the FIP including the Carp Threshold projects, the Silvies River Dam Diversion I projects and also helping with Fair in the Field. Brenda was having technology problems in showing the HBWI video that was produced. If members would like to view it you can go to the HDP website.

Agrimet stations: Harmony Burright and Jordan ____ were present to talk about the Agrimet stations. Jordan talked more about the Desert Research Institute and the NASA Roses grant. The Bureau of Reclamation has equipment for two stations in Harney County. The Council has voted to support one station for a period of ten years. Harmony and Jordan are looking for sites to place the stations. Private land for the irrigated site and perhaps BLM or Refuge for the dryland site. Karen reported she had made contact with several people and groups about support for the stations.

Membership: Karen received a letter from John Thelen expressing his interest in joining the Watershed Council in a Concerned Citizen position. After discussion, Pat Sharp moved to submit a letter of recommendation to the Harney County Court for John’s appointment to the Concerned Citizen – At Large position. Joe Witzel seconded and the motion passed. There was discussion about members who do not attend often. Several members offered to contact those members to see if they are ready to retire, or would like to remain with the council. Pat Sharp reported that the SWCD will be meeting next week and appointing a new SWCD member should be on the agenda.

Restoration Highlights reception planning: Karen asked if the council was interested in continuing with our yearly Restoration Highlights reception. In the past this reception was to celebrate the work of the council and to inform the public about the good work we are doing. In the past number of years participation has dwindled to council members and spouses. There was a suggestion to have a BBQ the last day of high school Range Camp for council members? There was a general consensus to continue with the reception but no date or place was decided on.

Items for next agenda: Chairman's list, Place Based Planning update, Groundwater Study update

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be May 16, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Moon, Coordinator