

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 December 20, 2016

(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	Matt Obradovich– 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: Ellen Hammond, ODA

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm

Additions to the Agenda: none

Minutes: Minutes from November and December will be reviewed and approved in January, 2017

Bills: Bills were not reviewed.

Correspondence: Correspondence shared was a letter from OWEB stating our eligibility requirements have been met and we may submit a council support application for 2017/19.

Chairman's Report: No report this afternoon.

Coordinators Report: the spreadsheet was not reviewed as several people need to leave early and we went right to the Council Self-evaluation.

Introductions: Introductions were made around the table as not everyone knew Ellen Hammond from ODA. Ellen has facilitated our Council Self-evaluation twice before.

Old Business:

New Business

Council self-evaluation: The Council self-evaluation forms emailed and handed out were returned to Ellen Hammond at ODA in Bend. Ellen tabulated results from each person who returned a form. Ellen also had Karen take the survey and Karen's answers were average to all of the other results.

There was discussion about the Council's new website. Karen shared the address www.hcwatershedcouncil.com. Some members were not aware of the address of the new site.

Discussion from the self-evaluation focused on partnership, community presence and outreach.

Strengths that came out of the evaluation included a strong mission and a strong board. The strategic plan is a strength. The Council has good trust in the coordinator's integrity and dedication to the council.

Concerns that came out of the evaluation included communication, both internal and external. Expectations of both the coordinator and board members. Also, involvement of Council, staff and volunteers.

Opportunities from this self-evaluation included better communication between the Council and the public. Clear roles and expectations from all parties including evaluation and follow-up. The possibility for more staff, volunteers and board participation. The possibility of diversifying funding.

Council members felt that we are in a positive trend from where we were a few years ago.

There was a question about implementation of our mission through our projects. Discussion on how projects are selected, does our Strategic plan help guide us through these? There was a discussion on how much of the Strategic Plan has been implemented. (reminder that this is a 5-year plan). Council members would like to review the Strategic Action Plan at the January meeting.

Council members asked for a new handbook that includes the Strategic Action Plan, board member expectations, mission, bylaws, etc. Karen will have a book ready for the January meeting. New members feel like it takes a while to get up to speed. The handbook could help to get new members up to speed quicker.

Karen will email out several documents before the January meeting.

There was a discussion on the Small Grant program.

There was a discussion Place Based Planning and how we can continue to move forward after the initial funding.

There was a question about how to deal with things if follow-through doesn't happen.

Consensus of the group is that we are doing good things, we need to be able to project that to the community. We need to thank people more often.

(The Coordinator left the meeting at this point to prepare for the County's water information meeting)

Coordinator review: The Executive committee shared their review of the Coordinator's performance. An employment contract will be drawn up and signed by the chairman and Karen.

Items for next agenda: Review the Strategic Action Plan, Board member handbooks, member positions, officer elections.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be January 17, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Moon, Coordinator