

Harney County Watershed Council
242 Hwy 20 South
Hines, OR 97738

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 19, 2017

(members present will be presented in BOLD type)

- Drewsey	- Guano	- 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	John Thelen - C/C at Large	Diane Rapaport– C/C Gen
Christine Bates – Environmental	– Sportsman	Jamie McCormick – BLM
Scott Franklin– 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	Chad Boyd – EOARC/ARS
Jordan VanSickle - USFS	JR Johnson - OWRD

Guests present:

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator, Gretchen Bates- CBWP Coordinator, Rianne BeCraft- CBWP Project Mgr., Maria Snodgress – ODF & W

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at pm.5:32 pm at the new HCWC office.

Additions to the Agenda: none

Minutes: Minutes for the November meeting were reviewed. Pat Sharp moved to approve the minutes as presented. Chris Bates seconded and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed. There were several questions about the budget process. Karen shared several reports although they are still a bit confusing as it will take time to have all entries done in the new manner and old entries “off the books” as far as reporting goes. It may take until next year after July 1 to get the reports to look correct.

Correspondence: No correspondence this evening.

Coordinators Report: Karen shared the spreadsheet that is used for the Coordinators report. There were questions about the Carp Biomass project and also about the Small Grant Program.

Vice - Chairman’s Report: Chairman Rachel Beaubien was home with sick little ones so Vice-Chairman Brenda Smith gave a short report. She thanked all HCWC members for their participation in the CBWP.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning: Gretchen Bates and Rianne Becraft were both present to talk about Community Based Water Planning (CBWP). The Water Availability Work group met November 29th. The group is working on documentation for a “backgrounder” for the full collaborative. Diane Rapaport and Chris Colson will be working on public relations/publicity. There was discussion about putting together a newsletter, articles in the paper. There was discussion about the Small Grants program and how irrigators could take advantage of the Irrigation Efficiency section to help with converting to LESA systems.

The Veg Management work group met for a second time. Questions included the role of vegetation management and how it affects groundwater availability? How does work in the uplands influence water quantity and quality? They talked about a framework and are in information gathering mode. Mitch Baker gave a photo presentation of monitoring data he has been collecting and Zola Ryan gave a presentation for the SWCD on their Demonstration Area in the Silvies Sub-basin. There was more discussion about how each Agency does monitoring differently and for different purposes. A small group volunteered to get together to try to find common ground and vocabulary.

The Domestic Well work group also held their second meeting. Topics discussed included current and historical data that is currently available. Harmony Burright from OWRD presented data on wells that have been deepened and new wells drilled. Questions about how many well deepening were due to lowering of the water table or poor well construction. Questions are still being asked about how many domestic, stock and irrigation wells there are? There was discussion about the monitoring programs going on. Harmony also let everyone know that OWRD will soon have an interactive map to find well information. There was discussion on how older wells may not have been constructed to current standards. There were concerns about deeper water co-mingling with water at different levels and contamination occurring.

The group felt that the last meeting was still mostly people getting complaints off their chest. Hoping that the next meeting can have a more structured conversation and be more productive.

Rianne BeCraft is new to the CBWP, she has been on the job for about 2 ½ weeks. She stated she is feeling good so far. She is holding lots of meetings with stakeholders and learning quickly about the needs of the Collaborative. Her contact information will be included on the website and for council members. Her email is Rianne@hcwatershedcouncil.com. Rianne will be in the office about ever two weeks for several days and should be here for monthly meetings.

Ag Water Quality Plan Biennial review: The meeting was held December 7th with only four members of the group who showed up for the review. In reviewing the membership, we do have several people who we need to replace. Edits to the plan

were reviewed and accepted. Jack Southworth and all there were pleased that the Plan is more concise. Maria will be back in March to give the Council a presentation on the revised plan.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met in December. They have been meeting almost monthly work to try to align the strategic plan with the OWEB work plan and it is proving difficult. The OWEB work plan has set elements including limiting factors and categories. The Strategic Plan has completely different elements. They are working on a separate document trying to blend the two.

Range Camp Update: Gabbi Johnson will coordinate Range Camp again this year. Funding for her position will come from EOARC. We are still planning for College camp in April and High School camp in June. We will probably move high school camp up earlier in June so that TVCC can participate more fully. The High Desert Museum in Bend is thinking about partnering with camp to help with recruitment. Top camper Maggie Justice from last June will be going to the Society for Range Management Conference this year.

Outdoor School: Karen shared the results of a meeting held in December about trying to get the Outdoor School going again. Council members questioned if we could use the OWEB grant funds to send local kids to an established Outdoor School? Suggestions to have the camp as three day trips rather than overnight were made.

New Business

Small grant program: The Small Grant Team will held their Organizational meeting on November 27th. Council members reviewed the bylaws and priorities as set up by the team. After discussion Pat Sharp moved to accept the Bylaws and priorities as presented. Chris Bates seconded and the motion passed.

Pat Sharp shared that the SWCD also moved to accept the bylaws and priorities earlier today at their monthly meeting.

Membership: Membership was reviewed. Rachel Beaubien is open to serving another three-year term in her position. Vacant positions were discussed.

Items for next agenda: Work-plan, Range Camp, Outdoor School, Small Grant Program, DEQ presentation.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator