

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 February 21, 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	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: Joe Witzel, Raven Wing

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:36pm. Introductions were made around the room.

Additions to the Agenda: Board member handbooks were handed out to those who were not at the January meeting.

Minutes: Minutes for the January meeting were reviewed. Brandon Haslick moved to accept the minutes as presented. Matt Obradovich seconded and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed

Correspondence: There was no correspondence presented tonight.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Rachel Beaubien did not have a report tonight.

Coordinators Report: the coordinator's spreadsheet was reviewed. There was a question about the water storage project and possibly tying it to aquifer recharge.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning: The January 18th meeting went quite well despite the weather. There were 155 factors that affect water that came out of the first meeting. There was also a Water Availability sub-group meeting held on February 7th that included 35 people. Factors that both influence and weaken the system were discussed. The consensus of the group was to invite an expert to give a basic Hydrology 101 type workshop for the next sub-group meeting that is scheduled for April. Dustin will talk to someone from OSU who may be able to give the presentation.

Mark Owens had a conversation with Tom Byler of OWRD about concern that we cannot complete an entire plan within the timeframe of the grant. OWRD is not expecting us to complete the entire plan, but to make it through the first few planning steps. We will need to secure more funding though as OWRD will not be able to fund the entire process. There was discussion on hiring Ken Bierly as a consultant to help develop other funding and help with grant writing. There is also a need to document the process we have been going through to get this collaborative effort off the ground. Ken could help with this as well.

After discussion a motion to approve funding for the Coordinating Committee for Place Based Planning to hire a contractor to begin to review needs for the process and to help with grant writing for future funding of the project. This person will also help to document the process. This amount is not to exceed \$5000.00. Motion made by Pat Sharp and seconded by Diane Rapaport. The motion passed.

Groundwater Study Advisory Committee: The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee met January 19th. There was a good training on how to measure wells that Jerry Grondin of OWRD shared with the group. They also went to Down Right Drilling and had practical experience for anyone who wanted to try measuring. The next measurements will take place beginning February 24th for ten days. Angie Ketscher will be leading the local monitoring effort and will monitor at least 110 wells during the same time. Some will be the same wells as OWRD and some will be different.

There was discussion about observation wells being tied to production wells. There was discussion on the development of the numerical model. More well logs are needed for the development of this model.

The next meeting of the Groundwater Study Advisory committee will be April 20, 2017. (Note that Community Based Water Planning and Groundwater Study Advisory meetings are being scheduled on the same quarterly basis).

Irrigation Seminar: Dustin Johnson presented reported that the workshop was held on February 6th. There was a very good turnout. Evaluations were done at the end of the workshop and most were positive. Topics included deficit irrigation, low elevation sprinkler application, irrigation scheduling, a producer panel and ag water quality management. There was also a presentation on financial assistance programs presented by the SWCD.

There have been no speaker travel costs requested as of yet, but there may still be a few. Joe Witzel had attended a previous workshop held about a year ago and he said that presenters had updated information at the current workshop. This should help growers with cost savings and increased production for our area. There was discussion on having the grower panel or having information available at the CWMA hay growers workshop coming up in April or May. There was also discussion about holding a future workshop on alternative crops. Congratulations on a successful workshop.

New Business

Fair in the Field: There was discussion about helping with the Fair in the Field through HBWI. The Watershed Council could have a station about water, and where it comes from. There may possibly be a well close by that we could demonstrate measuring static levels. This will be Thursday April 6th in conjunction with the Bird Festival. A sub-committee was formed of Karen, Rachel, Pat and Raven.

High School Biology Trip donations: There was a request from Amy Smith from Burns High School wondering if we would be interested in donating to the biology trip for the high school kids. After discussion Karen was requested to ask if the Council could review an itinerary for each trip and if students would be willing to come and give a presentation about what they learned when they get back. Itineraries will be reviewed and a decision made at the April meeting.

Membership: A list of members whose terms are up were reviewed and those wishing to be renewed include Fred Otley, Angie Ketscher, Dustin Johnson and Brenda Smith. Raven Wing has submitted a letter of interest for the Alvord Lakes Sub-basin Landowner position, and Joe Witzel has submitted a letter of interest for the Harney/Malheur Lakes Sub-basin Landowner position. A motion was made by Dustin Johnson to recommend to the County Court that both Raven and Joe be appointed to the Council. Fred Otley seconded and the motion passed. Karen will take a letter to the next County Court meeting regarding membership and will give the yearly update. Mark Owens will be moved to the Harney County Court position, so this leaves a Concerned Citizen position, the Landowner General and the Guano Landowner positions open. There is a new person from the Forest Service who will be invited to the next council meeting.

Items for next agenda: Budget, Biology trip donations, Community Based Planning, Groundwater Advisory update, Range Camp planning.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be April 18, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator