

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 March 21, 2017

(members present will be presented in BOLD type)

John Sword – Drewsey	- Guano	Raven Wing – Alvord
Fred Otley – Diamond	– 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
Pat Sharp – 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: Laurie O'Connor, John Thelen, Ben McCanna, Ty Temple, Tim Boyce- USFS

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator

The Coordinating Committee of Place Based Planning met starting at 4:30pm. Members present for this meeting included Mark Owens, Dustin Johnson, Raven Wing, Angie Ketscher, Rachel Beaubien, JR Johnson, Chris Bates, Diane Rapaport, Brenda Smith. Robin Harkless and Harmony Burright were on the phone. Guests included John Thelen, and Laurie O'Connor.

There was discussion about the role of the Coordinating committee. It was noted at first this group was brought together to help get the grant completed, the project manager hired and the first meeting organized. There was a question about who was meeting on Monday mornings? It was noted that the small group included Mark, Harmony, Robin, Dusan, Allison, Brenda, Gretchen and Chad, and most recently Karen. This group has been working to plan the agenda for the quarterly meetings, the new Water Availability workgroup meetings and to line up speakers. The group realized they had not been communicating with the rest of the previous group or the WC as much as some would like. The question was asked if there should be more monthly updates at WC meetings again? Should the group move their meetings to the hour before regular monthly meetings?

There was discussion on a logic model to explain the different groups and how they work together. A beginning model was created. There was discussion on the Water Availability Sub-group and their purpose. They are answering the questions about where water is coming into the system. What information is needed? What information do we have? Where can we get the information? This group will meet on Wednesday, April 5th and we will have Dr. Michael Campana from OSU to present a basic hydrology presentation.

Last meeting the Council voted to hire Ken Bierly to help with grant writing for more funding for Place Based Planning. There will be a meeting with Ken on Thursday this week.

There was more discussion on the "process" committee. Members of that committee include Mark Owens, Brenda Smith, Robin Harkless, Karen Moon, Gretchen Bates, Harmony Burright and Dustin Johnson. There was discussion on how to keep the rest of the members informed about what the "process" group is working on. We will have a monthly update at each council meeting. Minutes of all of the groups are requested to be added to the council's website.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28pm

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Introductions were made around the room.

Additions to the Agenda: Members of the community asked to discuss a "well injury report".

Minutes: Minutes for the February meeting were reviewed. Angie Ketscher moved to accept the minutes as presented. Diane Rapaport seconded and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed Chairman Rachel Beaubien will help with bank reconciliations if needed. Mark Owens moved to approve the financial report, including the monthly expenditures as included in individual grants as paid. Chris Bates seconded and the motion passed.

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 discussion on how projects are brought to the council or how decisions were made as to which projects to pursue.

Old Business:

Water Storage: There was discussion on the Water Storage project that the Council has been working on. The Council has submitted two different applications for the project, both of which were not successful. One through OWEB and one through the Feasibility Study grant program with OWRD. We will continue to work to improve the application and will submit it to the Feasibility Study program again this fall.

Community Based Water Planning: An update from the previous meeting was given. Communication was discussed and the small group will work on “process” only. This includes planning the agendas, looking for speakers as directed by the members of the collaborative. So far there have been two quarterly meetings of the full collaborative and one meeting of the Water Availability Sub-group. The Water Availability group will meet and hear a presentation on hydrology on April 5th at the ESD meeting room from 2-5pm. The full collaborative group will meet on Wednesday, April 19th at the Community Center from 5-8pm.

People present from the public brought up several questions. These questions were discussed and most were regarding legislative issues, or water right issues.

Local Groundwater Monitoring Network: Angie Ketscher reported that she has measured 67 wells with about 42 more to go. The process is taking a bit longer with having to explain the process, purpose and answer questions. Angie reminded people that for wells to be included in the Groundwater Study that the well needs to be accessible, it needs to have a well log that can be tied to the well. She is looking for wells that the State is not measuring as well as some that they are. Angie is working on completing the cooperative agreements and is developing a postcard that can be sent after measurements are made to let the landowner know what the levels are. John Thelen questioned the timing of measuring and feels that measuring both before and after pumping is needed.

It was noted that the Council’s e-tape can be available for needs, although it needs some repair at the moment.

Fair in the Field: There was discussion about the Fair in the Field day at EOARC during bird festival week. Pat Sharp, Raven Wing and Karen will put together the presentation for Thursday and Friday for the kids. They will meet shortly after the council meeting this evening for planning.

Science in the Sagebrush Steppe (College Range Camp): Reservations for College Range Camp at this time include 48 students from 6 colleges. Camp will be held April 27-30, 2017. Council members were asked if anyone else was interested in volunteering? Jordan VanSickle from the USFS may be able to help! Karen and Angie will be cooking again. Jamie McCormick will help out as a team-lead. For newer members it was explained that during camp these college range students develop a management plan for sage grouse in about two days. They work with the scientists from EOARC to learn methods and learn about soils, habitat, fire and cooperative management between permittees, landowner and agencies. High school range camp takes place in June.

Yearly update to County Court: Karen reported she had presented the yearly report to the County Court, along with asking for the court to appoint both Raven and Joe to their respective sub-basin landowner positions. The Court appointed them March 8th at their regular county court meeting.

Membership: Karen received a letter from Pat Sharp requesting to move to the Landowner General position with the Council from the SWCD position. Open positions on the Council were reviewed. John Thelen expressed an interest in joining the Council in one of the Concerned Citizen positions. John will work on a letter of interest. Council members volunteered to talk with several members who are not attending regularly.

New Business

Connect conference: Karen shared with council members the announcement and flyer for the Connect conference the beginning of May. Karen will be attending, and helping with a round-table discussion on “surviving in a one person office”. Brenda and Dustin will be hosting a one hour session on “Starting a collaborative effort in your community”. Robin Harkless, our facilitator for Community Based Water Planning will be hosting a session on “facilitation from the side” to help those who are running meetings deal with difficult people who want to dominate a meeting.

Agrimet stations: Karen, Brenda, Mark and several others participated in a phone call/presentation with US Bureau of Reclamation about having several Agrimet (weather stations) being placed in the county. There is a hole in the network for our county, and having equipment here to measure evapotranspiration and collect weather data could be very beneficial. There was discussion on having at least two stations, one for commercial ag lands and one for dry lands to compare data. TNC is also interested in having a station in a “wet meadow” situation. Letters of interest for the project are needed by Friday. There is the possibility that equipment for two stations may be available through Bureau of Reclamation, however maintenance costs, which run around \$1600 per year are needed. A commitment of 10 years for maintenance is best to help make the project feasible. After discussion Diane Rapaport moved to have the Watershed Council commit to ongoing maintenance in the amount of \$1600 for one Agrimet station for a period of ten years. The Council will also seek funding partners for maintenance of a second station and the funding of a third station in a wetlands area. Mark Owens seconded and the motion passed.

High School Biology Trip donations: Karen reported that she had received an itinerary from Amy Smith from the Burns High School, and that Connie Robbins had stated that the itinerary for the Crane trip will be the same as last year. Angie Ketscher moved to donate \$500 to each biology trip with the stipulation that each group give a presentation to the Council on what they learned on their trips. Raven Wing seconded and the motion passed.

HBWI update: With time running short it was decided to postpone the update until the April meeting.

Well Injury report: Several members of the public were present to find out more information about a Well Injury Report. Council members were not familiar with any such report. More information will be sought and brought to the next meeting.

Hay Growers class: The CWMA will be hosting a hay growers class. A flyer was handed out with information about the class.

Items for next agenda: HBWI update, well injury report, biology trip reports, community based water planning update.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator