

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 May 16, 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	- 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: Connie Robbins, Mary Driskell, Randy Epling, Rhett Landon, Kaelyn Lasich- Crane High School, Karen Leiendecker - OWEB

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator, Gretchen Bates – PBP project manager

The Coordinating Committee of Place Based Planning met from 2-4pm. The Coordinating committee met to finalize logistics for the Wednesday, May 17 Water Availability Sub-group meeting at the High Desert Partnership Office

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. Introductions were made around the room.

Biology trip presentation: Connie Robbins from Crane High School was present with biology students from both 2017 and 2016 to present about their field trip to the coast. Connie also talked about a project her students are doing in partnership with OWRD in performing isotopic tests for water chemistry, measuring dissolved solids and temperature. Results are being shared with USGS and will be included with the groundwater study. Students are maintaining information on their website or on Facebook, you can look up the Harney Rockers.

Additions to the Agenda: Website

Minutes: Minutes for the April meeting were reviewed. Mark Owens moved to approve the minutes as presented. Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed. There were questions about the High School Range Camp. Brenda shared that there are 14 students who have applied as of Friday. We will be holding camp. Mark Owens moved to approve the financial report, Diane Rapaport seconded and the motion passed.

Correspondence: Karen shared mail in regards to Department of State Lands water applications. There were questions about the PCSRF funding that OWEB receives. Karen asked council members who wished to make contact with legislators and inform them who PCSRF funding benefits watershed health and restoration in Oregon. Karen received a flyer from the Malheur Watershed Council. They will be having information on agricultural energy efficiency programs at their council meeting on May 18th.

Coordinators Report: Karen shared the spreadsheet that is used for the Coordinators report and shared that she will be taking vacation the first part of July.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Rachel Beaubien gave a short report.

Old Business:

The Chairman's list: Chairman Rachel Beaubien has been keeping track of ideas brought out at recent council meetings and summarized them in a list to be discussed:

Trainings for both council members and staff. It was thought perhaps we could hold a training and include a BBQ. This could be some sort of non-profit training. This could also include an annual review for council members?

There was discussion on holding meetings around the County again. September or October was decided to hold a meeting either in Crane or Frenchglen.

The grant process was discussed. Council members would like to be more active in what grants the Council will take on.

The Website was discussed, Karen and Harmony have been updating the site. Comments were made that the page dealing with the Groundwater Study is outdated and confusing. There seems to be nothing about the current study. Karen will have Harmony help to re-vamp the page and include the "bitly" address where information is available for the Groundwater Study being done by OWRD.

Council members information needs to be updated, information about the council, meeting minutes, the conceptual model for CBWP and current and past projects should be updated.

After discussion Mark Owens moved to allow Diane Rapaport to have a link to her blog posted on the website. Joe Witzel seconded and the motion passed.

Council members asked to have this "to do list" placed on the agenda monthly to keep up with progress.

Community Based Water Planning: Gretchen Bates, gave a progress report on the CBWP. She shared the agenda for the Water Availability Work Group meeting to be held tomorrow afternoon.

- The Coordinating Committee met earlier in the afternoon to formalize the work-plan and process piece for planning step 2 of the Place Based Planning grant.

- Karen reported that both the DEQ 319 grant and the Meyer Memorial Application have been submitted online.
- There was discussion on having the conceptual model put on the Website.
- There is still a possibility of funding from Ford Family Foundation.
- Upcoming topics for the Water Availability group will include irrigation efficiency and municipal use.
- The next full collaborative meeting will need agreement on the Governance Agreement, the workplan and the Communications Strategy.
- A discussion about the Council acting as “convener” and our neutral stance and guarding of the process took place. It is alright for council members to participate, but to remember that the council as a whole must remain neutral in the process.
- Karen was asked to contact Greg Wolf from the Oregon Association of Counties as ask about a convener’s role.

Groundwater Advisory Committee: There was a discussion on the interaction of the rules committee with the community. Those that advised the rules committee were different than those serving on the Advisory committee. There was a discussion about permit conditions and how that relates to the study.

It was noted that OWRD staff need to feel comfortable with the community, and members of the community should feel comfortable in dealing with Agency staff. OWRD recently posted results of early monitoring. Some wells are showing no definite trend. USGS gave a very good presentation at the last Groundwater Advisory meeting. There was discussion about the mailing list for the groundwater Study.

Science in the Sagebrush Steppe (College Range Camp): Forty-one students and six advisors attended camp. Everything went well and only snow the first day. Lots of good reviews from participants. High School camp will take place June 21 to 24th. There are opportunities for council members to come and help with camp. Team leaders are needed and possibly help with cooking. Brenda also stated that judges for the management plans are needed as well. Judging takes place on Friday.

Connect Conference review: Karen reported that the Connect Conference in Pendleton was a success. Over 300 SWCD, Watershed Council staff and others attended. From the Council, Brenda and Dustin attended to present a session on starting a collaborative effort in your community. Robin Harkless also presented on how those who run meetings can help keep dominant people from taking over your meeting. Brandon Haslick also attended the conference. Next year’s conference will be in Seaside.

Agrimet Stations: Harmony shared previously that the Bureau of Reclamation has two stations that they can donate to placement in Harney County. They are looking at land owned by Mark Owens for the agricultural site, but are still looking for the dry land site. Perhaps they can place it at the Malheur Field Station. The Council has committed \$1600 of council funds to help maintain one station for up to 10 years. There may be an increase cost of up to \$2000.00 per year. It was felt that partners can be sought to help with the extra cost. Farm Bureau may be able to contribute, OWRD may be able to contribute, land owners may be able to contribute. Fundraisers can be held as well.

New Business

Restoration Highlights reception planning: was tabled until a future meeting.

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

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be June 20, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator