

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 November 21, 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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at pm.5:35 pm at the new HCWC office.

Additions to the Agenda: none

Minutes: Minutes for the October meeting were reviewed. Dianne Rapaport moved to approve the minutes as presented. Joe Witzel seconded.

Bills: Bills were reviewed. There were several questions about the budget process. Karen is working with Janae from Oster's, she will be here next week to help change things and make it easier to develop a budget.

Correspondence: No correspondence this evening.

Coordinators Report: Karen shared the spreadsheet that is used for the Coordinators report, however with busy times and a problem with Quickbooks the dollar amounts next to the grants have not been updated. Karen shared information about the Network of Oregon Watershed Council's quarterly meeting held in Sweet Home. There is also an update needed for the Groundwater projects to be split between the two grants. There were questions about the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative projects. Karen will start introducing projects at upcoming WC monthly meetings

Chairman's Report: Chairman Rachel Beaubien talked about the Executive Committee and discussions about Work Plans and Strategic plan alignment, work continues but all are having a hard time trying to mesh the two. A friend of Rachel's contacted her as part of a consulting firm and asked about participating with Community Based Water Planning. There were questions about the Walla Walla basin and their recharge projects.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning: Gretchen Bates shared about the two new work groups formed at the November 15 meeting. The vegetation management group will be working on gathering data for ET, and best management practices for riparian areas to start. Questions about what we know, and how to gather data that we don't know were discussed.

The Domestic Well/Municipal Water Users group are asking questions about how much water cities use? Will everyone run out of water if everyone uses too much? There are questions about arsenic and what effect it has on plants, animals and humans. Connie Robbins shared some of the studies that her science kids at Crane are doing. Harmony had several maps showing rural wells and how many have been deepened. The Crane kids will present more at the January collaborative meeting. There will also be more about the DEQ study being planned.

There was discussion about holding the work group meetings at slightly different times on the same day so people can attend both if they wish.

January 17 will be the next full collaborative meeting. The group sees that in the next year there may be as many as 4-5 sub-working groups being formed.

Funding for CBWP was discussed. The council discussed the recommendation to hire an additional project manager for CBWP. Two candidates were interviewed by the Executive The recommendation was to hire Rianne BeCraft from the Executive Committee. After discussion, Diane Rapaport moved to hire Reanne BeCraft, Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed. Pat Sharp asked if the Job Description and Scope of work could be sent out to board members.

The application to the Collins Foundation was discussed. Diane Rapaport moved to submit the funding application to the Collins Foundation. Fred Otley seconded and the motion passed.

There was discussion about the four pilot projects for Place Based Planning. Each group is moving in a slightly different direction. Harney County has the broadest based grass roots form. There was discussion about how we can share the good things we are doing. Oregon Cattlemen Association is having a panel discussion at their conference on Friday December 1st. Farm Bureau will have a panel discussion on Place Based Planning at their conference as well.

Visit by Tom Byler of OWRD: Those that were able to visited with Tom Byler from OWRD on November 6th in the afternoon at the Courthouse. Those that went stated they thought they had good meetings, that Tom was very forthright with answers and putting resources forward toward the groundwater study here. They were also impressed that he seemed to be open to the possibility of fine tuning regulations in the future. Everyone was very appreciative that Tom took the time to visit Harney County for the day and listen to people here.

New Business

Ag Water Quality Program: The Ag Water Quality biennial review of the Greater Harney Basin Rules will take place on December 7th from noon to 4pm at the ESD meeting room. Council members asked for more education on the Ag Water Quality Plan.

Membership: Membership was tabled to the December meeting.

Small grant program: The Small Grant Team will hold their Organizational meeting on November 27th at 10am at the HCWC meeting room. Karen handed out a copy of the priorities that the group will be working on for the next biennium. We discussed what kind of projects the small grant program usually deals with. There was discussion about having the SWCD take over management of the program. After discussion Diane Rapaport moved to have the WC continue to act as the Small Grant Team manager. Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

Items for next agenda: Approval of small grant team bylaws & priorities, update on CBWP, update on HBWI projects. Updated membership/terms up for renewal.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be December 19, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Moon, Coordinator