

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 October 18, 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: Aaron Borisenico – DEQ, Paige Evans – DEQ, Jason Spriet - OWRD

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator,

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

Additions to the Agenda: none

Minutes: Minutes for the September meeting were reviewed. Jamie McCormick moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dustin Johnson seconded.

Bills: Bills were reviewed.

Correspondence: No correspondence this evening.

Coordinators Report: Karen shared the spreadsheet that is used for the Coordinators report. Grants were reviewed, there were questions on the monitoring grants.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Rachel Beaubien talked about the Executive Committee and discussions about Work Plans and Strategic plan alignment.

DEQ presentation: Paige Evans from DEQ was present to talk about their Statewide groundwater monitoring for water quality projects. They are working in Northern Malheur, Southern Willamette and the Umatilla. They are interested in offering water quality testing through a proposed study to monitor 100 wells in the basin for nitrates, arsenic, bacteria, pesticides and a few other substances. The project will take place in 2018. Some wells will be tested twice. She asked if the Watershed Council would be willing to help recruit participants. A one-page flyer is available on the DEQ website. Steve Hanson from DEQ will return to the Council meeting in February of 2018.

Old Business:

New office space for the Council: Council members have visited the HDP office and thought it would be a good place for the Council to move to. Parking may be a bit of a challenge, but the sub-lease from HDP will be for one year. Angie Ketscher moved to go ahead and sub-lease the HDP office at 242 Hwy 20 South in Hines. Diane Rapaport seconded and the motion passed.

Groundwater Advisory Meeting: The Groundwater advisory group met earlier today. They had geology presentations from USGS and DOGAMI and had a field trip to see some of the geology the presentation talked about. Climate and trends were also part of the presentations.

Community Based Water Planning: The full collaborative will meet tomorrow at the Community Center starting at 5pm. Gretchen Bates provided a copy of the agenda. Participants will be asked to sign on to the working agreement. The Research group will give a presentation. There will be a presentation on Vegetation Management by Dustin Johnson and Jordan VanSickle. Discussion on forming a Domestic Water users group will also take place.

Groundwater monitoring: Angie Ketscher reported that she has two measurements on approximately 60 wells. Some have three measurements if they are not irrigation wells. Angie asked the Council how they would like the information that she is collecting presented? Information will be provided to landowners who are participating, but would the council like the information in line graphs? Elevations? Trend over time? She asked when would be the appropriate time to stop adding wells to the program? With the difficulty in measuring during the irrigation season, and possible bad weather in January, it was decided that perhaps measuring three times per year would be more appropriate.

New Business

Letter of support for TNC OWEB grant: The Nature Conservancy is resubmitting their OWEB grant to help with fresh water ecosystem needs. Diane Rapaport moved to submit a letter of support for the project. Joe Witzel seconded and the motion passed. Karen will email the letter to council members after it is written.

Visit by Tom Byler of OWRD: Tom Byler will be visiting Harney County to support the Water planning projects happening in the basin. He will be available the afternoon of November 6th. Council members would like to meet with him starting at 3:30pm.

Membership: There was discussion about the vacant positions available on the Council. Positions open include Drewsey, Guano, Alvord and Sportsman. Several people were recommended, Angie Ketscher volunteered to talk to someone in the Drewsey area. Several names were thrown out for the Alvord Lakes position.

Small grant program: A date has not been reached where all of the team members can meet to work on the bylaws and priorities. Time was also running late to give an educational presentation on the small grant program so that will be tabled until another meeting.

Items for next agenda:

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be November 14, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator