

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 September 19, 2017**

(members present will be presented in BOLD type)

- Drewsey	- Guano	- Alvord
Fred Otley – Diamond	<b>Pat Sharp</b> – Landowner Gen	Joe Witzel – H/M Lakes
<b>Angie Ketscher</b> – Silver Creek	Dustin Johnson – Education	Brandon Haslick– Paiute Tribe
<b>Brenda Smith</b> – C/C Burns/Hines	<b>John Thelen</b> - C/C at Large	<b>Diane Rapaport</b> – C/C Gen
<b>Christine Bates</b> – Environmental	– Sportsman	<b>Jamie McCormick</b> – BLM
<b>Scott Franklin</b> – SWCD	Mark Owens– HC Court	<b>Rachel Beaubien</b> – 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	<b>JR Johnson</b> - OWRD

Guests present: Karen Leiendecker- OWEB, Maria Snodress – ODA, Jordan Beemer - OWRD

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator,

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at pm.5:31 pm. Introductions were made around the room.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Fair review was added to the agenda.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the July and August meetings were reviewed. Angie Ketscher moved to approve both minutes as presented. Jamie McCormick seconded and the motion passed.

**Bills:** Bills were reviewed.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence this evening.

**Coordinators Report:** Karen shared the spreadsheet that is used for the Coordinators report. All grants were reviewed.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Rachel Beaubien talked about the Executive Committee and discussions about Work Plans and Strategic plan alignment. There were questions about funding for Range Camp in the future. Gabby Johnson has filled out an application and submitted it to the Schwerm foundation to help with funding for a coordinator for Range Camp. It was thought that ODF & W or US Fish & Wildlife may have dollars that we could access for Range Camp coordination as well.

**Ag Water Quality presentation** by Maria Snodgress from ODA about their Strategic Implementation Areas and how they are being implemented around the state.

### Old Business:

**New office space for the Council:** Council members have looked into the purchase of the Finlayson building next to Blackburn Real Estate. While the monthly payments and monthly costs are probably doable for the Council there was concern with the amount of a deposit that would be needed. It could leave the council's cash flow in a bind. Brenda Smith shared that the High Desert Partnership will be moving to new offices and they still have a year's lease on the building that they are in. Rent is \$550 per month and expenses would be about the same as projected for the other building. There were questions about what would happen at the end of the lease. After discussion several members wanted to go and look at the HDP office. They will bring back a recommendation at the October meeting.

**Community Based Water Planning:** The Water Availability Work Group will meet tomorrow evening at 5pm at the Community Center. Martha Pagel will be talking on water law and Water Policy options and how conservation may affect water rights. Lynn Tomanoga from Idaho will be talking about their Groundwater Water District in eastern Idaho.

**Fair Booth:** Members thought the outside booth had good information. There was literature available about the different types of systems. Sale brochures and poster boards were good. If they had been able to get water out of the sprinkler heads that may have drawn more people to the booth.

Karen will share photos from the inside booth at the next meeting. There was information on Range Camp, Small grants and groundwater monitoring.

**Groundwater monitoring:** Angie Ketscher reported that she has 52 wells across the County. Three new ones today. The next scheduled measurement will be in October. She shared a map she and the planning department have worked on. There are still problems with the GPS units. A new one has been ordered.

### New Business

**OWRD partnership for monitoring:** Jordan Beemer from OWRD was present to talk about a possible OWEB grant for monitoring ET in the basin. The Agrimet stations are probably not going to work out now, so two Eddy Covariant stations are being set up within the basin. One is placed at Lawen and one will be in Crane. These will be a short term solution being able to gather ET data. OWRD is asking the Council to consider submitting a Technical Assistance or Monitoring grant to OWEB to help analyze the data from these two stations. The grant would be asking money for site maintenance and

data analysis. Hopefully we could have a beginning conceptual model by spring of 2019. Pat Sharp moved to help prepare a grant application for the November submission deadline. Angie Ketscher seconded and the motion passed.

**Membership:** Council members were saddened to hear of the passing of our Drewsey member John Sword. Karen had a card available for members to sign. Angie Ketscher moved to donate \$100 to the memorial fund. Scott Franklin seconded and the motion passed.

**Items for next agenda: Office space, fair booth, grants.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Moon, Coordinator