

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 December 18, 2018

(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 McCormack – 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
- USFS	JR Johnson - OWRD

Guests present: Tyler Harris, Ellen Hammond – ODA, Vanessa Schroeder - OSU

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at pm.5:36pm

Additions to the Agenda: none

A presentation by Ellen Hammond of ODA on Strategic Implementation Areas and the fact that two SIA's are starting within and near Harney County. There was a meeting in Juntura this afternoon and there will be a meeting in Drewsey on Thursday that will inform landowners about the projects and discuss ODA's review of streams and properties with the use of aerial photos. After review, those with possible problems will be contacted by ODA and/or the local SWCD to talk about the possible problems and how landowners can reach compliance with Water Quality Plans and Rules for each basin. Ellen shared that the state will be starting six SIA's each year around the state.

Vanessa Schroeder who is a Faculty Research Assistant from OSU gave a presentation on her work out at EOARC. Vanessa is currently working on a projects that will help to support both wildlife and ranching in sagebrush ecosystems. Vanessa is studying songbirds and the effects that moderate grazing has on songbird survival. She explained that songbirds are a sagebrush obligate and that some form of sagebrush is vital to their survival, this is more of a control for sage grouse, as their yearly habitat needs are so great that a study particularly on them is not feasible. Vanessa also works in partnership on a website called Sage Share, she helped to develop a GIS education program for landowners to help teach local partners how to use GIS in their ranch management. She is helping to develop a Photo Guide for western plants and helped to develop a Field Guide for Plant ID during different stages of development.

Minutes: Minutes for the November meeting will be reviewed and accepted at the January meeting as we do not have a quorum this evening.

Bills: Bills were reviewed. The P & L was shared as well as the balance sheet. Discussion was short due to time constraints involved with the Council Self-evaluation this evening.

Correspondence: none this evening.

Coordinator's Report: Karen gave a short report due to having two presentations this evening.

Chairman Report: Vice Chairman Brenda Smith gave a short update that led into the Community Based Water Planning update. She and Mark Owens attended Legislative Days at the Capitol, they spoke with the Natural Resources Committee as well as several other committees about OWRD and to offer their continued support of the Place Based Planning projects.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning

The Coordinating Committee is working on holding a "summit" which will be a two day intensive work/brainstorming session for all of the workgroups. Tentatively planned for January 23/24, 2019, possibly at Crane Hot Springs.

The full collaborative met in October and again on November 28th. They came to consensus on moving forward with working to start a CREP program here in the County. The NuMu Allottee group gave a presentation at the November meeting. The work groups will be moving towards solutions as they finish up their Step 2 & 3 work. The Domestic Well/Municipal group had a brainstorming session last week on what they would like to see done.

Possible Agri-met station establishment: Mark and Karen received an email about possibly establishing an agrimet station here in Harney County. The council previously had moved to help maintain a station, however Bureau of Reclamation's funding for the program was shut down.

New Business

Council Self-Evaluation : Ellen Hammond from ODA was present to give her findings from our Self-evaluation that was sent out last month. She found that results were similar to the self-evaluation from 2016. There was good discussion. There was some concern that water planning is taking up a lot of time. However, the need for the water planning is important and it

is OK that it takes up time at this point. Members felt that education was still important for the Council and that helping to keep Range Camp going was important. Members also felt that outreach was important. All present were in agreement that seeking funding for a more in-depth organizational evaluation was important, including strategic planning.

Items for next agenda: Council Self-Evaluation, Officer elections.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be January 15, 2019

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Moon, Coordinator