

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 February 20, 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 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
- USFS	JR Johnson - OWRD

Guests present: Jim Bentz, Fran Maxwell

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator, Rianne BeCraft- CBWP Project Mgr

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at pm.5:34 pm, but Vice Chairman Brenda Smith

Additions to the Agenda: OWEB board meeting tour in April

Minutes: Minutes for the January meeting were reviewed There were several corrections. Diane Rapaport moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Seconded by Jamie McCormick and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed. Diane Rapaport moved to approve the financials, Chris Bates seconded and the motion passed.

Coordinator's Report: The spreadsheet was updated and reviewed.

Vice-Chairman Report: Brenda Smith reported that plans for Range Camp are moving ahead this year. EOARC has funds available to pay Gabby Johnson as the coordinator. Sponsorship letters will be going out soon, but we need to remember that we still need to look for grant funding to keep a coordinator for camp. College camp is coming up in April and so far eight colleges are making plans to attend. Cal Poly, Chico, Humboldt, UNR, U of I, OSU and Eastern.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning

The Domestic Well work group will meet February 21 at 5-8pm

The Agricultural Work meet from 1-4pm on February 22.

The Veg Management work group will meet from 1-4pm on February 21.

The Ecological Workgroup will meet from 9-10:30 on a conference call on March 22 as a kick off meeting.

The Full collaborative will meet again April 18th.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met Friday, February 16th and made good progress on updating things, so hopefully it will help in better determining priorities in the future. Chairman Rachel Beaubien has the document and was not able attend this evening. We will present it in the future.

Groundwater Monitoring: Angie and Darrick will have a report to the Domestic Users group in May. The next round of monitoring will be in starting next week. Angie and Mark will be going to Salem to report on the local monitoring network. There were questions about how many wells have water meters? Only those in town. Out of city, exempt uses are not required to meter. New irrigation permits have requirements to record static water levels. There is no requirement for irrigators to measure the amount of water they use. New requirements can only be applied to new wells/permits, they can be added retroactively.

Small Grant update: There was concern by several board members that felt advertising for the small grant program was not adequate and those who have submitted applications had an advantage. Some felt that next time around there should be a month's worth of advertising before accepting applications.

New Business

OWEB Board meeting tour: Brenda Smith announced that the April Board meeting for OWEB will be held in Frenchglen. She presented the group with several options for possible tours with the board to highlight the good work that OWEB is funding here. There is an optional tour timeslot on Monday afternoon and also Tuesday evening. April 23rd and 24th. There were questions about perhaps providing dinner for the Board? Perhaps Marty could plan a tour of part of the Five Creek project?

Updates from partners: Chad Boyd from EOARC reported that two members of EOARC had received awards at the recent Society for Range Management conference earlier this month. Tony Svejcar and Roger Sheley. Members of EOARC are busy helping with outreach regarding the Sage Grouse CCAA's. Working on State and Transition models and permit renewals. They are also having a Field Guide/Managers guide being developed. They are looking to increase their Outreach capacity at the Station.

Brandon Haslick updated the Council on activities from the Natural Resources Department at the Tribe. He conducted a five year assessment on the fisheries this past field season. Trying to improve habitat for Bull Trout and working mostly in the upper Malheur. Six years ago population estimates were taken, then five years of removal estimates for Brook Trout. He found that their efforts have not been very successful. They also are looking at a second year to release Chinook Salmon into the upper watershed at Logan Valley. They are releasing jack salmon that are not able to reproduce, but it is important to tribal members to have salmon back in the river.

Jamie McCormick updated that BLM employees are in the midst of winter work. Working on reports and budgets. Regional efforts in both the Boise area and Reno are working on EIS for fuel breaks and are looking for comments. Brenda Smith offered to forward the email she received to council members so those interested can submit comments.

Scott Franklin updated for the SWCD that they had held their Annual Meeting last month. Mitch and Linda Baker were awarded the Cooperator's award. There was an Ag Water Quality presentation by Ellen Hammond.

Jim Bentz was in attendance and asked about having flyers, mail, notices sent out earlier as those in outlying areas don't have prompt mail service and some do not have internet.

Items for next agenda: Update on HBWI, Ag Water Quality Greater Harney Basin Plan updates, Socio-Economic analysis by Econ Northwest

Upcoming events: HCRC speaker April 3 10:30 – 11:00 Juniper Water Talk
Regional Economist – Statistics on Harney County April 11, 2018
Crossroads Ranch Benefit Dinner February 24, 2018

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be March 20, 2018

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator