

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 March 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: Maria Snodgress – ODA, Ben Cate – Aquatic Health Coordinator for HBWI

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator, Gretchen Bates, CBWP local coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at pm.5:35 pm, by Chairman Rachel Beaubien

Additions to the Agenda: none

Minutes: Minutes for the February meeting were reviewed . Angie Ketscher moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mark Owens and the motion passed.

Bills: Bills were reviewed. There were questions about some of the contracts that are in place. CBWP funding was discussed. The Council may be asked to help prioritize funding for CBWP in the future.

Presentation by Ben Cate about the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative and the Focused Investment Project funded by OWEB.

Maria Snodgrass from ODA gave a presentation on the Ag Water Quality Program update for the Greater Harney Basin Plan that was completed this winter. She is also looking for new Local Advisory Committee members.

Coordinator's Report: Postponed this evening due to the presentations

Chairman Report: Postponed this evening due to the presentations.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning

The Domestic Well work group will meet Wednesday evening 5-8pm March 21 (tomorrow) at the Community Center.

The Agricultural Work group meets this Thursday, March 22 from 5-8pm at the Community Center.

The Veg Management work group will meet from 1-4pm on Thursday, March 22 at the Community Center. Dustin Johnson gave a short update on what the group has been working on since February. They will be having a speaker talk about the Forest and stand density at the upcoming work group meeting.

The Ecological Workgroup will meet from 9-12:00 on Thursday March 22 at the Community Center.

The Full collaborative will meet again April 18th.

Small Grant update: After receiving numerous applications to update pivots to the new LESA systems, OWEB has denied the applications stating that anything above ground on a pivot is considered "movable" and cannot be funded by the Small Grant Program. A conference call was held between Kathy Leopold and the small grant team. OWEB staff did not want to have any discussion, they just stated it was not eligible under the ORS rules for the small grant program. A conference call is being scheduled to include the program manager for OWEB. There was discussion around bringing up the topic at the OWEB board meeting in April in Frenchglen.

OWEB Board meeting tour: Brenda Smith talked about the development of an optional tour on Monday for the board as they travel to Frenchglen. They will start at the Research center, go to the Refuge and on to Frenchglen.

Executive Committee: Chairman Rachel Beaubien talked about the document the Executive Committee has been developing to align the OWEB workplan with our Action Plan. She will refine the document and share at a future meeting.

Range Camp update: Brenda Smith reported that the final planning meeting for the college camp will be next Tuesday, March 27th at 1pm at the Research Center. So far there are five colleges that have expressed interest in attending.

Display booths: Karen asked if the Council was interested in her setting up a display booth at the Connect conference in April. After discussion there was no decision made. There was discussion about the fair booth and whether or not there was enough traffic to have an outside booth again. The consensus was that there was not that much traffic outside, however there was no decision to renew either the outside or inside booth at this time. Karen has received the contract for the inside booth.

Groundwater Monitoring: Angie and Darrick have data for one year. Dustin Johnson will help Angie plot the data onto a spreadsheet and perhaps they can have some graphs to share. There really is not a lot of data to supply reports or draw conclusions at this time. There is a trend, but there really is not enough data to form a conclusion regarding trend. Angie will be going around with Paige from DEQ helping her make connections with local folks to get the water quality testing done.

Mark Owens talked some about the Socio/Economic analysis that is being conducted by the Oreong Business Council. The County Court is contracting with EcoNorthwest to conduct the analysis.

New Business

Fair in the Field: Will take place Thursday, April 5th at EOARC for 8th grade students. Karen will be doing a short talk about the Water Cycle and kids will make bead bracelets. Gretchen Bates offered to help.

Donations: There was a short discussion on a policy to fall back on when groups ask for donations. Pat Sharp offered to help develop a policy. The Council had received requests from a couple of groups for donations.

Connect Conference: Karen received permission from the Executive Committee to attend the Connect conference put on by OCEAN, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and OACD. The Conference will take place the 17, 18 and 19th of April with a Network board meeting on Monday April 16th. Our next scheduled council meeting is Tuesday the 17th. Council members agreed that we should cancel the April council meeting due to a number of meetings including the Groundwater Study, CBWP workgroup meetings and the quarterly full collaborative meeting that week.

Roadside cleanup: The cleanup was rescheduled to Saturday, April 30 as the materials were not available before the bird festival. The group decided to start at 8am and meet at the Burns Ponds. Karen will pick up the bags, vests and grabbers on Friday from ODOT.

Items for next agenda: Update on HBWI, Socio-Economic analysis by Econ Northwest, Connect review, Executive Committee work plan, donations policy/requests

Upcoming events:

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be May 15, 2018

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm
Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator