

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 October 16, 2018**

(members present will be presented in BOLD type)

- Drewsey	- Guano	- Alvord
<b>Fred Otley</b> – Diamond	Pat Sharp – Landowner Gen	Joe Witzel – H/M Lakes
<b>Angie Ketscher</b> – Silver Creek	Dustin Johnson – Education	<b>Brandon Haslick</b> – Paiute Tribe
<b>Brenda Smith</b> – C/C Burns/Hines	John Thelen- C/C at Large	<b>Diane Rapaport</b> – C/C Gen
Christine Bates– Environmental	– Sportsman	<b>Matt Obradovich</b> – 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	<b>Chad Boyd</b> – EOARC/ARS
- USFS	JR Johnson - OWRD

Guests present: Harmony Burright – OWRD, Dave \_\_\_\_\_ Hines Council

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator, Rianne BeCraft - CBWP

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at pm.5:40 pm, by Vice - Chairman Brenda Smith.

**Additions to the Agenda:** none

**Minutes:** Minutes for the September meeting were reviewed. Diame Rapaport moved to accept minutes as presented. Angie Ketscher seconded and the motion passed.

**Bills:** Bills were reviewed. New reports were generated and emailed out. Members thought they were easier to read..

**Correspondence:** none this evening.

**Coordinator's Report:** Karen gave a verbal accounting of what she had worked on over the past month.

**Chairman Report:** Vice-Chairman Brenda Smith gave a short report. The Range Camp group needs to meet and set dates for 2019 camps. The HBWI Focused Investment Partnership is going into its 3<sup>rd</sup> biennium. Projects are not defined in the workplan so the group is meeting to work through the plan for the next two years. The Council will act as fiscal agent for a couple more diversion structure replacements.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Community Based Water Planning**

The Collaborative is meeting tomorrow evening. There will be an additional full Collaborative meeting to be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be discussion on the mid-process assessment conducted by Oregon Consensus. There will be an update on the Eco Northwest report and updates from each of the work-groups. Ken Bierly will give an update on the voluntary programs (CREP) that are being talked about. Mark Owens and a few others attended Legislative Days and things were reported to go well. There was talk of water planning that is being included in the Governor's Budget, this may be money for the League of Oregon Cities. The work-group leads have been meeting to discuss how the workgroups will be integrated to begin work on Step 4

#### **The Domestic Well work group**

##### **The Agricultural Work**

The Ag working group will be inviting Jake Tibbits to the November Workgroup meeting from the University of Nevada, Reno. There is a need for travel expenses and there is not a lot extra in the budget. After discussion Angie Ketscher moved to provide travel expenses for Mr. Tibbits from the Watershed Council's unrestricted funds, not to exceed a total of \$700. Fred Otley seconded and the motion passed. Mileage and Motel will be covered.

##### **The Veg Management work group**

##### **The Ecological Workgroup i.**

### **Funding:**

**Groundwater monitoring:** Angie gave an update on the local groundwater monitoring. She just finished the October monitoring which is the 4<sup>th</sup> measurement for this year and includes irrigation wells that have been shut off. Angie asked how the Council would like their data to be presented? Chad Boyd offered to help with putting the data into a presentation.

OWRD will still accept locally gathered data however a cut-off date is approaching to have data included in the published document for the Water Resources Department. Data that is collected after this date will still be accepted, but will not be included in the report at this time only due to the time restraints needed to prepare the report.

### **New Business**

**OWEB grants:** Harmony Burright was present to talk about the ET monitoring grant that the council will be submitting to process the data being collected by the Eddy Covariant stations that are located here in Harney County. These stations measure atmospheric flux and are producing a lot of data. While many feel that there are already ET estimates for high desert ecosystems, this grant would help to ground-truth the Land Sat Imagery and to provide actual data for our area as to how much groundwater both crops and native vegetation are using.

**Office Building:** Our one year lease is up with High Desert Partnership. Karen has been working with the owner of the building to prepare a new lease. Council members stated they would prefer to stay with a one-year lease rather than two years. It was noted that starting January 2019 the rent will increase by \$150.00 per month due to the Landlord having to change insurance companies and the rate increased.

**Council Self-Evaluation:** Karen shared a copy of the self-evaluation form from OWEB with the members present. After discussion it was thought it would be easier for members to fill it out on the computer than hand-written. Karen will email the document to council members two weeks before the next meeting and ask for them to be returned by the Friday before the meeting.

**Items for next agenda: Council Self-Evaluation**

**Next meeting:** Our next meeting will be October 16, 2018

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Moon, Coordinator