

**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 19, 2019**

(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 | <b>Dustin Johnson</b> – Education          | <b>Brandon Haslick</b> – Paiute Tribe |
| Brenda Smith– C/C Burns/Hines        | John Thelen- C/C at Large                  | <b>Diane Rapaport</b> – C/C Gen       |
| - Environmental                      | - Sportsman                                | <b>Jamie McCormack</b> – BLM          |
| Scott Franklin– SWCD                 | <b>Mark Owens</b> – HC Court<br>(by phone) | <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 |
| - USFS            | JR Johnson - OWRD     |

Guests present: Tyler Harris, Tessa Edelen – DEQ, Rachel Lovellford by phone, Karen Leiendecker – OWEB, Jama Hamel - USBR

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator, Rianne BeCraft – CBWP project mgr.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at pm.5:35pm

**Additions to the Agenda:** none

**Minutes:** Minutes for the November and January meetings were reviewed. Angie Ketscher moved to approve the minutes, Diane Rapaport seconded and the motion passed.

**Bills:** The P & L was shared as well as the balance sheet.

**Correspondence:** none this evening.

**Coordinator's Report:** was cut short this evening due to the presentation.

**Chairman Report:** was cut short this evening due to the presentation.

**Presentation by Jama Hamel from US Bureau of Reclamation and Rachel Lovellford about the possibility of having an Agrimet Station placed in Harney County.** The presentation talked about the fact that the nearest Agrimet station is located in Baker County. An Agrimet station is basically a weather station but allows producers access to the information. This could help to quantify the ET questions that are being raised in Community Based Water Planning. There was a question about the Eddy Covariant stations and it was noted that the two gather different data sets. It would be an advantage to have both stations located within the same property to ground truth each other's data. It was noted that the yearly maintenance is still around \$1600 per year. In the past, the WC had committed to funding the maintenance for a five to ten (10) year period. The Bureau of Reclamation hosts the data and publishes it on their website for local farmers or the public to access. The next steps are to develop the draft contracts. Installation of the stations runs around \$10,000 each and the costs will be covered by OWRD. Over the last month it has been determined that we can implement two stations within Harney County. One will be placed at Mark Owens hay fields and will be a good representation of agricultural water use within that portion of the basin. The second location is yet to be identified, there was discussion on whether to place it in another groundwater irrigated area, or to place it in a flood irrigated location. Several locations were discussed. A motion by Pat Sharp was made to have Jama visit the locations and rank the sites as to their suitability for the best data. Angie Ketscher seconded and the motion passed. The Council will approve the site either by an email vote or at the next monthly meeting.

### **Old Business:**

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

Rianne BeCraft, project manager was present and gave a presentation on funding for CBWP. There are two requests tonight from CBWP, the first is a request to use some of the council's unrestricted funds to help support the "admin" for CBWP. This includes payments for meeting rooms, food and the monthly software for basecamp. We have been using the "admin" dollars from the OWRD grant and the DEQ grant to cover these costs, but may run short until additional funding is secured. Grants have been submitted, but, even with encouraging staff reports, we won't know for certain until April. Angie Ketscher motioned to allow up to \$1500.00 of Council's unrestricted funds be available for use to support CBWP. Diane Rapaport seconded and the motion passed.

The second request tonight was to move to a new facilitator for the process. While we appreciate the work of Robin Harkless from Oregon Consensus, with the financial constraints it is not possible to continue. Discussion on having Jack Southworth move into the facilitation role was discussed. After discussion Diane Rapaport moved to switch to Jack Southworth, Angie Ketscher seconded and the motion passed.

### **New Business**

**Officer elections:** While there is quorum this evening, members felt that more members should be present for elections. Elections will take place at the March meeting.

**Membership:** Karen will be attending County Court to ask to have Tyler Harris appointed to the Drewsey position the first county court meeting in March. This was due to scheduling of the court. Karen will also be giving the yearly update at the same time. Brenda Smith is not present this evening, but has shared that she has someone who may be interested in the Sportsmen position and that person will attend our March meeting..

**Items for next agenda: Officer elections, CBWP updates, Agrimet station update, Fair in the Field - presentation**

**Next meeting:** Our next meeting will be March 19, 2019

The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Moon, Coordinator