

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 19, 2019

(members present will be presented in BOLD type)

Tyler Harris – 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
– 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: Ben Cate

Staff : Karen Moon, coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm

Additions to the Agenda: Bird festival booths, groundwater monitoring update

Minutes: Minutes for the February meeting was reviewed. Mark Owens moved to approve the minutes, Angie Ketscher seconded and the motion passed.

Bills: The P & L was shared as well as the balance sheet, Karen had found a graph to present through Quickbooks, everyone thought that was helpful. Mark Owens moved to approve the financial report as presented, Diane Rapaport seconded and the motion passed.

Correspondence: none this evening.

Coordinator's Report: was given verbally this evening. There was a question about the "exit" signs above the doors. Karen explained that the insurance company realized that we had moved and had questions about exit signs, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. Karen and the landlord worked to fulfill their requirements so that they would continue the liability insurance.

Chairman Report: Chairman Rachel Beaubien gave a short report.

Old Business:

Community Based Water Planning

Brenda Smith, Mark Owens and Karen Moon gave an update on the Community Based Water Planning and its funding. The Collins Foundation accepted our Letter of Interest and asked for more information and a full application for Funding. The additional information they were asking for was regarding diversity and inclusion, (more to their mission). Karen was advised to talk more about the funds providing equal access to quality drinking water, the need for domestic and municipal uses as well as agricultural and to talk about the inclusive planning process that is being utilized. Participation is open to all regardless of their interest. Targeted outreach is being done to underrepresented groups through additional funding being sought for the survey.

April 3rd will be the next full collaborative meeting. We will continue the discussion from the Summit in January around solutions.

Mark Owens and Brenda Smith talked to the group about a needed change in facilitation. Due to finances, the group feels that switching to Jack Southworth, who facilitates another collaborative in Harney County could not only help with lower costs, but Jack has a reputation for working locally and making people feel comfortable.

The CREP formation is being implemented. Team members were selected and invited to an organizational meeting on April 3rd in the morning before the Collaborative meeting. This is being put on by OWEB. There was clarification that this program will be separate with separate funding from the current CREP that is available for Riparian work.

The County Court is working on petitioning the Oregon Community Foundation to consider their application for additional funding during the summer cycle rather than waiting till the fall cycle.

There is a Policy Option Package in the legislature for OWRD to add additional funding to the Place Based Planning pilots. Partners who have supported this to the legislature include TNC, Water Resources Congress, Sustainability Northwest and the Oregon Farm Bureau.

There was discussion on the Community Well project for Crane. Do we know how much water would be needed?

There were questions about the OWRD Feasibility program.

There were questions about the DEQ Water quality study that was done last summer. No one has heard anything from Paige at DEQ.

Karen will be participating in a webinar through Workforce Oregon and TechSoup to learn more about Quickbooks.

Agrimet Station Implementation Update – Angie and Rachel each spent part of the the day with Jama and reviewed several sites. The first site will be Owens Hay. The recommendation for the second site would be at EOARC. If funding can be found for a third site in the future the recommended site would be on the Singhose property in the Weaver Springs Area. The Council has agreed to take on responsibility for one site for maintenance. There was discussion on fundraising to help provide those services for the next ten years.

Range Camp: Sponsor letters are being sent out. Karen passed out the flyers for camp.

Groundwater monitoring: Angie has finished data entry and has sent it to Jerry and Darrik. She had questions about continuing to measure those wells who do not have well logs or tags? There was discussion about wells that have not been tagged. Questions about the number of wells people see being drilled around the county presently. The statement was made that well inspectors are needed in the community. There were questions about putting the groundwater monitoring map on the website.

There was discussion that landowners participating in the monitoring program would like to receive their well readings. There was no money asked for in the grant to provide postage to mail out the readings. Diane Rapaport moved to allow postage to be paid for out of unrestricted funds of the Council. Mark Owens seconded and the motion passed.

There was some discussion about keeping groundwater data private – it was noted that when participants sign the landowner agreement that they agree that because we are using public funds that data can be shared. There are ways to share the data without specifically identifying landowners, or sharing private information. However, all data is being shared with OWRD as that is a condition of the grant.

There were questions about how many pivots in the county have been converted to LESA? Mark shared water use data for 2016.

New Business

Officer elections: There was much discussion on nominations and the possibility of having co-chairmen for the Council. At the end of the discussion it was tabled until the April meeting in order to review whether or not we would have to change our by-laws to allow co-chairs or to make sure that the person nominated for Secretary was willing to take on the role.

Membership: At the first meeting of the County Court, Tyler Harris was appointed to fill the Drewsey position with the Council. Ben Cate was present at the meeting and expressed interest in joining the Council in the Sportsman position. Alexa Martinez was at a meeting earlier, she works for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge as a wildlife biologist and has expressed interest in joining the council as the Environmental position. After discussion, Diane Rapaport moved to ask the County Court to appoint both Ben and Alexa to those respective positions. Karen will attend the next County Court meeting to ask for appointment.

Bird Festival Booths: Gretchen Bates has stated earlier that the Council and Community Based Water Planning have tables reserved to set up information about the Council and Water Planning. Karen and Gretchen will work together to have the tables complement each other.

Fair in the Field: Karen is working on a hands-on project for Fair in the Field to be held in April just before the Bird Festival at EOARC for middle school students. Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative has been sponsoring this and partners work to educate kids about the work being done here.

At the close of the meeting Mark Owens shared a flyer for a broadband study that is taking place across the country. There is an app that you can download to your phone that will record download and upload speeds and send the results with a location where the test is taken. This will be reported to the study group to see how broadband is available in rural areas around the county to see if they are up to standards.

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

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be April 16, 2019

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Moon, Coordinator