



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2020
HCWC office 242 Hwy 20 S
Hines, Oregon

Membership & Attendance:
(those in attendance will be highlighted)

Landowner positions:

Alvord –
Donner und Blitzen – Fred Otley
Guano –
Harney/Malheur Lakes – Joe Witzel
Silvies – Rachel Beaubien
Silver Creek – Angie Ketscher
Drewsey – Tyler Harris
Landowner General – Pat Sharp
Burns Paiute Tribe – **Brandon Haslick**

Concerned Citizen positions:

Burns/Hines – **Brenda Smith**
At Large – **John Thelen**
General -
Sportsman – Ben Cate
Education – Dustin Johnson
Environmental – **Alexa Martinez**
County Court – Mark Owens
Harney SWCD – Scott Franklin
BLM – **Jamie McCormack**

Advisory Positions

ODF & W – Dave Banks
Malheur National Wildlife – Jeff Mackay
NRCS – Zola Ryan
EOARC – Chad Boyd
OWRD – JR Johnson
USFS -

Staff

Coordinator – Karen Moon,

Guests – (on the phone) Rachel Lovellford-OWRD, Jordan Beamer-OWRD, Justin Huntington-HDR, Jason Kelley-University of Idaho, Harmony Burright-OWRD, Richard Jasoni-DRI

Mission of the Harney County Watershed Council

Local economic and ecological prosperity depends on watershed health and the availability and quality of ground and surface water.

Therefore, the Harney County Watershed Council provides a framework of outreach, coordination and cooperation between private landowners and all interested parties to promote watershed conditions that benefit people and the environment. The Council works to improve watershed health through education, action plans based on scientific assessments and enhancement projects.



Harney County Watershed Council

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Introductions were made around the room and on the phone. Chairmen Brenda Smith asked each member to share a short update on what is new in each person's area that they represent.

Continuing project updates/action items

Monitoring ET in the Harney Basin: A presentation about the Monitoring ET grant was presented remotely by the team working on the grant. Members include Oregon Water Resources Department, Desert Research Institute and University of Idaho. A power-point was shared. This project has come out of a NASA Roses grant as well as the OWEB funding. Two Eddy-Covariant stations have been set up in Harney County to collect real time data, they are similar to the AgriMet stations, however they collect data continuously and transmit data every 15 minutes. Data from these stations can be used to refine the Agra-Met data to help make it more accurate. Knowing the actual ET both in the basin, and even at the field level can help irrigators with more efficient irrigation scheduling.

Community Based Water Planning update:

Karen Moon gave an update from the previous CBWP meetings. There was discussion on the February meeting and the progress made.

The NRCS local work group met earlier this afternoon. NRCS will have a funding pool to help irrigators to install LESA packages on pivots, as well as Harney Electric will have a rebate available to help offset costs of installation.

The Domestic well group will have a meeting on Wednesday, February 19th from 4-6pm at the Community Center.

The next full collaborative meeting will be Thursday, February 24th and the two day summit will be March 12 & 13th at the ESD with dinner at the Pine Room Thursday evening.

Range Camp:

Gabby has sent out the flyer and application for this year's Range Camp in June. Karen will be working on sponsor letters to send out. Council members asked to see if help is needed with college camp and report back at the next meeting. The group is also talking to the Cattlewomen to see if they would hold their ranch tour in the Riley area and then come to Range Camp for lunch and the talk with Tony and Chad.

Sponsor Policy: Due to the short amount of time left in the meeting, and a lack of a quorum the Sponsor Policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

New Business



Harney County Watershed Council

Ag Water Quality Plan update Karen reported on the meeting that was held on February 13 at the Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center. Members of the group reviewed the Area Plan and rules. There were a number of new people added to the group and review of how the Plan was developed was a part of the discussion. The SWCD convened the meeting and with Maria Snodgrass of ODA they will share the updated plan when all comments are incorporated and the plan is published.

Board Development - Including the vote to update the bylaws were all tabled until the March meeting.

Minutes: Minutes for the January and February meetings will be reviewed at the March meeting due to lack of quorum.

Items for next agenda include: Updates for Range Camp, Donation policy, Bylaws and Board Member handbook and strategic planning.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator