



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – January 21, 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, Holly Mondo – CBWP project manager

Guests – Shannon Brubaker – Harney SWCD, Barbara Pearson – Harney SWCD

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.



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The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Chairman Brenda Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. Rachel Beaubien was appointed as the time-keeper for the evening. Guests from the Harney SWCD and our new project manager for CBWP were introduced.

Shannon Brubaker from the SWCD introduced herself and gave an update on personnel who have been hired at the SWCD. Sarah Mundy has been hired to work with the Sage Grouse FIP, and Darcy Ugalde has been working to get the Harney Electric rebate program back up and running for the SWCD. Carlton Straughn is part time with NRCS and is working on site specific plans for the CCAA;'s. She let council members know that the SWCD annual meeting will be held on February 6, 2020 at the Central Hotel. A flyer will be forwarded to council members. Shannon also introduced Barbara Pearson who is a program assistant who also works part time for the SWCD and part time for NRCS.

Projects the SWCD is working on include more site specific plans for the Sage grouse FIP. They are working on their SIA with ODA to improve water quality in the Drewsey area. They are seeking funding to hire a groundwater coordinator who would also work on the Harney Electric rebate program and also rebates through EQIP with NRCS. There is conversation about a native seed program and a "Conservation to school" program that would be similar to "Farm to School".

Open Issues:

Community Based Water Planning update:

Holly Mondo, our new project manager was in attendance and introduced herself to the group. A short update about the last CBWP meetings included focusing on results of the groundwater study. The meeting next week will include results from the domestic well survey, working to have a shared understanding of what is going on in the basin, and moving forward to the strategy bin regarding domestic well use. There will also be an update from Brenda and Holly's trip across the mountain in a blizzard to address the legislature about CBWP and The Learning Partnership.

Upcoming meetings include the Ecological Working group meeting on Tuesday, January 28, from 5-8pm. The full collaborative will meet on Wednesday, January 29 from 3-8pm and the Vegetation Management working group will meet on Thursday from 1-4pm. All meetings are at the Community Center.

OWRD & USGS Groundwater Study:

The December 12 & 13 meeting of the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee was much like the previous meeting with figures and information being shared by USGS and the OWRD study team members. Friday was again a discussion with OWRD about how the process moves from the published study moving into a new Rules Advisory Committee and new rules being developed for the Basin. Discussion on what a Critical Groundwater Designation entails and the process for putting a designation in place. At the end of this meeting there was discussion of continuing dialogue with a smaller group between OWRD and the Advisory committee to keep



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the path of communication open and identify barriers to implementation as we move towards the study being published and into a new rule making process.

HBWI- TRT meeting update:

The Technical Review Team for the Harney Basin Wetlands Focused Investment met earlier today to review one grant for HDP to continue to manage the Focused Investment grant. A field trip to the Sweek and Tyler dams was offered after the meeting. Council members were reminded that the Council acts as fiscal agent for these two dam projects. There was also a short update about the Carp Threshold project that was able to be completed this summer out in Double O on the Refuge. The full partners meeting for HBWI will take place tomorrow at the Harney ESD meeting room.

Range Camp:

The planning group for Range Camp met December 10 to plan for camps this next spring and summer. Dates for College camp will be April 16-19th. Realizing that this is also bird festival weekend, there was some discussion on perhaps the Cattlewomen would like to plan a tour in the Riley area and then come to camp for their meal? College professors who attend with their students had responded to Gabby that this weekend would work the best for attendance. High School camp is planned for June 10-13, 2020. Council members asked if Gabby could attend the February meeting to discuss camp and let council members know if there are needs that members could fill?

New Business

Board Development:

In November, members asked to review board member documents. The board member description and bylaws. Board member terms were also discussed. Karen shared the bylaws with several suggested revisions that are needed according to new laws taking affect in 2020. Karen participated in a webinar put on by the Oregon Conservation Partnership (NOWC & OACD statewide organizations) about new laws that affect non-profits in Oregon. Several changes are required to our bylaws. The state now requires a non-profit to have a Treasurer, and several other changes affect voting and how members can attend a meeting and vote. Karen will update the changes and email to board members so that bylaws can be changed at the February meeting.

With the passing of Diane Rapaport, we are in need to elect a new Vice-chairman for the Council. Ben Cate was nominated, but declined the nomination. Pat Sharp nominated Brandon Haslick and Rachel Beaubien seconded. Karen will contact Brandon to see if he is willing to serve as Vice-Chair. A vote will be taken at the February meeting.

Before the December meeting (which was cancelled due to illness) Brenda had sent a request to council members to answer several questions about how the Council had been doing over the past year or so. Brenda shared Diane's responses to the questions.



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Board membership was shared, several members have stated they wish to serve another term with the Council. Mark Owens informed the Council that he is seeking to be appointed to the Oregon House of Representatives with the appointment of Lynn Findley who is being appointed to Cliff Bentz's Senate position. Mark stated that he is interested in continuing with the Council in a different capacity if Council members are willing to accept there will be times that he will not be able to personally participate in meetings. Karen will contact the rest on the list whose positions are expiring to see if they wish to continue. Karen was asked to check email addresses for council members as some state they are not receiving emails.

Bylaw changes: One change with the Oregon Legislature is that they consider members that are participating remotely with a meeting are now considered to be "attending" the meeting. With several open positions for further out in the County being difficult to fill. Karen will look into purchasing a Zoom account so people can attend through their computers rather than just listening over the phone.

The Executive Committee has decided to hold an EC meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 11:15am to set the agenda for the monthly meeting and discuss any matters that may need attention. Any member of the Council is welcome to attend, or if agenda items are needed they can be shared with Karen.

Donation Policy:

Karen has received a request for a donation to the Crane STEM fundraiser. They are working to bring in a speaker who is a science writer and will be holding a dinner to raise funds for the STEM program.

Since requests come up from time to time, it was suggested that the Council should develop a policy, with guidance when responding to requests for donation. Pat Sharp worked to develop a draft policy which was reviewed at the meeting. Input was given and Pat will work on refining the language and bring to the February meeting for acceptance. A request form will be developed that those asking for donations will fill out for the Council to review.

In light of the draft policy and seeing that the request for the STEM fundraiser fits within the criteria of the draft proposal. Pat Sharp moved to donate \$500 to the Crane STEM fundraiser to help with costs of bringing in the speaker and providing supplies for the meal. Rachel Beaubien seconded and the motion passed. The Fundraiser will take place on February 6th, 2020 at Crane School.

Minutes:

Council members reviewed the minutes from the November meeting, and the financial report from November through January. Pat Sharp moved to accept the minutes and financial report as presented. Rachel Beaubien seconded and the motion passed.



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Items for next agenda include: Updates for Range Camp, Donation policy, Bylaws and Board Member handbook documents. Karen will invite the new Forest Service director to the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator