



# Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2020  
HCWC office 242 Hwy 20 S meeting by Zoom  
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 - **Mark Owens**  
Sportsman – **Ben Cate**  
Education – **Dustin Johnson**  
Environmental – **Alexa Martinez**  
County Court – **Kristen Shelman**  
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)** Coby Menton – OWEB, Adrienne Graham

## ***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 5:31pm. Introductions were made using the Zoom conference call service. Chairman Brenda Smith asked each member to share a short update on what is new in each person's area that they represent.

Each member gave a short update that included Jeff Mackay from the Refuge sharing that the birds are still traveling and irrigation is ongoing on the Refuge. Social Distancing is still being followed by all except the birds. Rachel Beaubien our Silvies landowner shared that the BLM is still on lockdown. She also shared she will be starting a new job at the NRCS office. Congratulations to Rachel! Coby Menton joined us from OWEB as our new RPR. Alexz Martinez reported that lots of birds are using the refuge and they are still expecting good water from the mountains for the summer. Mark talked about the rain being good for the hay crop at this point!

### ***Continuing project updates/action items***

#### **Board Development -**

***Update to our Strategic plan*** – Adrienne led us through the documents she shared and talked about the stakeholder interviews that she would like council members to conduct. We walked through the spreadsheet and added stakeholders. We did some work on the pre-planning questions and Adrienne will be sending out a questionnaire for council members to return to her.

*Council members are asked to review and volunteer for specific interviews at the next council meeting. Advice was given on how to conduct the interviews, especially with the Covid – 19 virus, more may be over the phone or by Zoom or email rather than in-person.*

#### **Community Based Water Planning update:**

Karen shared a printed report from Project Manager Holly Mondo.

- Approximately 25 people attended each of the three CBWP Collaborative Zoom meetings (held on April 22, 2020), which allowed for four strategies to be drafted. Collaborative members worked on strategies in different bins, thus helping to maintain forward progress. The next round of Zoom meetings are scheduled for May 27, 2020 (12:30-2pm & 3:30-5:30pm) where the focus will again be on building strategies.
- The Irrigator Group convened and met for the first time on April 20, 2020. Since then, they have drafted a letter to the Collaborative that outlines their vision and goals. Updates on their progress are shared with the Coordinating Committee on a regular basis and with the full Collaborative during virtual meetings.
- The Vegetation Management Working Group has completed their Step 2/3 draft report; it has been sent off to OWRD for review and edits are expected by September 2020. The next meeting has yet to be scheduled.
- The Ecological Working Group is continuing to make progress on their Step 2 and 3 drafts. Their last meeting was held on April 23, 2020 where members decided to hold an



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“accountability call” in lieu of a Zoom meeting. A doodle poll was sent out to drafters to schedule this call, but a date/time has not yet been confirmed.

**Range Camp:** Range Camp for 2020 has been cancelled.

**Board membership:** There was discussion about having Advisory members help with advice on people that may be interested in serving on the Council. Chad Boyd and Jeff Mackay both offered to help with suggestions.

**Budget** – Karen shared the updated budget for the Council. It will be sent out again for a vote at the June council meeting. It was noted that OWEB will be meeting June 11<sup>th</sup> and a new funding forecast for OWEB will be shared at that meeting. The Board will be working to adjust their spending plan according to the reduced funding that is expected due to the Covid-19 virus situation.

### ***New Business***

**Minutes:** Minutes for the April meeting were reviewed. Brandon Haslick moved to accept the minutes as presented. Rachel Beaubien seconded and the motion passed.

Financials for the Council were reviewed. Brandon Halick moved to approve the financial report, Rachel Beaubien seconded and the motion passed.

**Items for next agenda on June 16, 2020 include: Budget, CBWP, Strategic Planning**

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm  
Karen Moon, Coordinator