



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – August 18, 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 – **Shannon Brubacker**
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) Commissioner Patty Dorroh

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 5:33pm. 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.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Community-Based Water Planning Updates- July 2020

Karen shared Holly's update. Chairman Brenda Smith shared that she and Holly had been working with OCF to submit another grant for continued funding. The amount would be for \$5000 and would be administered by the Watershed Council for outreach and communications. Brandon Haslick shared an update from the Coordinating Committee call and stated that the group had been working through some "hot" topics including water districts, and how to start the conversation over "reasonably stable" with the collaborative. Harmony shared that the groundwater study publication is most likely to be delayed due to Covid 19. Harmony said she would also share an update with the collaborative on "illegal use within the basin".

Board Development -

Update to our Strategic plan – Brenda took the group through a summary from the stakeholder interviews. There was discussion around staffing, stakeholders and did we interview a good cross-section of people? Several thought receiving a "summary" of answers would be helpful.

The "prep" team will be meeting on Thursday the 27th via Zoom. There was discussion on scheduling our "retreat" for the whole council to work on updating the plan. Hopefully by the end of September.

There was also discussion on the fact that Watershed Council's being "voluntary" and most are non-profit that there are more opportunities for funding and projects that governmental agencies.

New Business

Fair booth: There was discussion by the group as to whether to go ahead and have a booth at the County Fair next month. The consensus was to have an "unmanned" booth that highlighted Community Based Water Planning, Range Camp and perhaps the HBWI project. The theme is "down a country road".



Harney County Watershed Council

Minutes: Minutes for the July meeting were reviewed. Financials for the Council were reviewed. Jamie McCormack moved to approve the July minutes and the financial report, Rachel Beaubien seconded and the motion passed.

Items for next agenda on September 16, 2020 include: Continued work on the Strategic Plan

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator