



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – July 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 – **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) Holly Mondo – CBWP project manager

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 5:30pm. 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:

County Court member Commissioner Kristen Shelman, during our member updates asked how CBWP meetings were being publicized. Project manager Holly Mondo was present this evening and talked about how during the pre-Covid times that our local volunteer coordinator Gretchen Bates would place a public service announcement in the Burns Times Herald and would also notify the radio station. Since we have been meeting by Zoom, Holly is not sure that those announcements have been reaching the paper or the radio, and she will check into that for future meetings. It was suggested to try to share more on Facebook to several pages or groups to help get the word out.

Holly shared a written update

Community-Based Water Planning Updates- July 2020

- Twenty-five people (14 in-person participants; 11 zoom participants) attended the Full Collaborative meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 held at the Harney County Community Center with a Zoom call-in option. During the meeting, an updated timeline was shared with scheduled deliverables and three strategies were drafted. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29th from 3:00-6:30 via Zoom where participants will be drafting the last three strategies in the workflow and discussing the strategy refinement process.
- Holly Mondo (CBWP Project Manager) and Brenda Smith (CBWP Co-convenor) have contracted Ryan Gallagher of Good Gallagher, LLC as a contractor to assist in the development of community outreach materials for the Collaborative's draft groundwater plan and the Irrigator Group's materials. The first drafts of outreach materials have been developed and have gone through a few rounds of edits, but more work needs to be done before sharing.
- The Ecological Working Group is continuing to make progress on their Step 2 and 3 drafts. During their June meeting, Holly Mondo (CBWP Project Manager) shared a rough timeline of deliverables to ensure progress lines up with the OWRD grant agreement. The next meeting will be scheduled on either July 30 or 31 from 10am-12pm via Zoom depending on the group's availability.
- The OpenET platform, which aims to measure and monitor ET, emerged from a 2016 NASA project and is now in the final phases of development. The second to last phase outlines a transition of OpenET to Google Earth training and State training and the last phase aims to transition that training to agencies and integrate the platform into decision-making activities. Currently, for agriculture and water sustainability, there are eight "use cases" that highlight



Harney County Watershed Council

how accessible ET data can encourage and benefit sustainable land and water management. There is a desire from OWRD to add a use case in the Harney Basin to help inform future ET forecasts, potentially improve consumptive use, and ground-truth. At this point, a Letter of Support from OWRD Director Tom Byler indicating a desire to receive additional technical assistance from the OpenET team has been drafted. During the June meeting, members of the Collaborative were asked if they supported the Department in their endeavors to add the Harney Basin as a use case; those in attendance unanimously supported. Next steps identified by the Collaborative members were to draft a Letter of Support addressed to the OpenET's technical team and send it along with OWRD's letter.

- Portland State University is conducting a third-party study to capture perspectives from Oregon residents who might not have been part of the State's 100 Year Water Vision listening sessions. Researchers are hoping to amplify eastern Oregon voices by recruiting 15 households to participate in an online survey that consists majorly of ranking water statements by agree/disagree. Organizations that assist in recruiting will receive \$100 and each household will receive \$50 for participating. Holly Mondo (CBWP Project Manager) and Karen Moon (HCWC Coordinator) plan to work with PSU on such endeavors sometime in August.

Board Development -

Update to our Strategic plan – The group reviewed the interview sheet and it was determined that we have been doing well with interviews. We have extended the deadline for completing them for one more week and then all interviews should be complete and the forms emailed to Karen. Karen will forward them on to Adrienne for summarizing.

Brenda Smith talked to the group about the alternative format that we are going to use, since we cannot all meet together just yet. A smaller prep-team of Brenda, Pat, Karen and Jamie working with Adrienne will work to put together a history of the Watershed Council, a Trends and demographics document and are reviewing the answers to a pre-planning questionnaire that was sent to all members. Seven members responded to the survey. When this leg-work is done it will take less time when we are together to review this part, and then move on to working on mission/vision statements, goals, strategies and action plans.

Results of the pre-planning questionnaire included significant successes that included, Community Based Water Planning, bringing together diverse interests, watershed enhancement and education.

Issues that were brought up included, keeping council members engaged and participating, outreach and education, increasing general awareness of the council, the Groundwater Study, funding and water management planning for the future.

Recommendations for the future included, increasing community engagement, Community Based Water Planning, creating a funding plan, educational programming, board recruitment and engagement and new projects.

Brenda asked for any other concerns or recommendations. If people have any they can email her or Karen.

Karen gave a short verbal history of the Council and is working on creating a Word document to be included in the Strategic plan.



Harney County Watershed Council

Brenda shared her Trends and Demographics document.

Council members are encouraged to complete their interview assignments and forward their documents to Karen to be sent on to Adrienne by next Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

New Business

There was no new business this evening.

Minutes: Minutes for the June meeting were reviewed. Financials for the Council were reviewed. Pat Sharp moved to approve the June minutes and the financial report, Mark Owens seconded and the motion passed.

Items for next agenda on July 21, 2020 include: Brenda let everyone know that the majority of the next meeting will be reviewing documents and discussion on the update for the new Strategic Action Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator