



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2021
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 –
Silvies – **Rachel Beaubien**
Silver Creek – Angie Ketscher
Drewsey –
Landowner General – **Pat Sharp**
Burns Paiute Tribe – Brandon Haslick

Concerned Citizen positions:

Burns/Hines – **Brenda Smith**
At Large –
General - Mark Owens
Sportsman – **Ben Cate**
Education – Dustin Johnson
Environmental – Alexa Martinez
County Court – Kristen Shelman
Harney SWCD – **Shannon Brubaker**
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 – Susan Doverspike – (will be new SWCD member)

Mission of the Harney County Watershed Council

Harney County Watershed Council works to improve watershed health for the benefit of our communities and the environment!

Vision of the Harney County Watershed Council

People in Harney County are working together to ensure health watersheds and thriving communities.



Harney County Watershed Council

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm. Chairman Jamie McCormack welcomed everyone to the meeting, reviewed the agenda and asked each member to share an update from their area. Each member gave a short update.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

A Coordinating Committee update was given by Brenda Smith and Jeff Mackay. The last Coordinating call there was a lengthy discussion on Step 2 & 3 information and how to roll it all into the “Plan”. They also reviewed the agenda for next week’s Full Collaborative meeting. There will be another attempt to fill in the spreadsheet with regards to the Silver Creek Sub-basin, as well as a presentation from the contractor hired by The Nature Conservancy to present information on the Water Market Feasibility Study.

A question was asked about how our project is progressing compared to the other Pilots? Brenda Smith answered that she and Mark Owens will be presenting in front of the Oregon Water Resources Commission on Thursday this week, and she would have a better idea after that presentation as all four pilots will be presenting. There was discussion on how all four of the projects are very different from each other so perhaps comparing isn’t as easy as the question would seem.

Karen Moon talked about the OSU Engineering students project to develop a way to measure stock water wells. The students are looking to place a flowmeter on two stock wells within the basin for a short study to see if they will work. As another aspect to this project the students have developed a survey that they are wanting water users in the basin to participate in. Holly and Karen will distribute the link to the short survey through email, Facebook and the HCWC website as well as the Water Planning website.

Strategic Planning

Chairman Jamie McCormack reviewed the different portions of the Strategic Plan. Karen Moon gave an update of the projections for income and expenses. After discussion a motion to approve the Strategic Plan was made by Ben Cate and seconded by Rachel Beaubien. The motion passed. It was decided to keep elements of the Strategic plan on the monthly agenda so that progress on the plan can be monitored.

Goals were reviewed and “champions” for each area identified. One of the first things to get completed would be the “elevator” speech so that council members can have a consistent message to share with the public. There was discussion on having someone from the Council give a radio interview, since the local radio has new owners again. There was discussion on different groups that we can present to as well.



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New Business

Board membership

Council members reviewed our membership and the open positions were discussed. At this time we have the Drewsey Area, Guano, Alvord, Harney/Malheur Lakes landowner positions, a Concern Citizen position and the Forest Service Advisory position open on the Council. There was discussion on each position and who would like to contact potential members to see if they are interested.

Members asked Karen to email the sub-basins map so they could be more familiar with the areas. Members were hopeful that with the use of Zoom we could have better luck recruiting from the far end of the basin so people would not have to drive so far to meetings.

Range Camp

The last information that we had was that College camp was going to be conducted virtually this April. EOARC scientists are hopeful that we can hold High School Camp in June. Karen will contact Dustin and Chad to get more information and to perhaps begin looking for sponsorships for the June camp.

Small grant program

Karen reported that the small grant team had received one grant from the SWCD to review. The review team met and approved the grant, it has been processed and forwarded on to OWEB for its review. A reminder that the small grant program has monthly acceptance of applications and local review. The SWCD is submitting one more grant for the next cycle.

Minutes: Minutes for the January meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Brenda Smith to accept the minutes as presented. Ben Cate seconded and the motion passed. Financials for the Council were reviewed. Pat Sharp moved to approve the financial report, Brenda Smith seconded and the motion passed..

Items for next agenda on March 16, 2021 include: Update on Community Based Water Planning and Strategic Plan implementation

Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator