



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – April 20, 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 - Rep. Mark Owens

Sportsman – **Ben Cate**

Education – **Dustin Johnson**

Environmental – **Alexa Martinez**

County Court – Kristen Shelman

Harney SWCD – Susan Doverspike

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 – Jason Kesling – Harney SWCD

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 healthy watersheds and thriving communities.



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The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Chairman Jamie McCormack welcomed everyone to the meeting, reviewed the agenda and asked each member to share an update from their area.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Brandon Haslick shared an update from the coordinating committee. He reported that there was discussion on moving back to more “in-person” meetings. Holly has researched the Governor’s standards and reported that since Harney County is in the “low” risk category that meeting in person for up to 8-10 people is appropriate. Since this would still not really accommodate all collaborative members, we will continue to meet by Zoom. Kristen Shelman will have the County’s meeting room available for any who would like to join together in person to Zoom from the Courthouse.

The next full Collaborative meeting is this Thursday, April 22nd from 4pm to 8:30pm. There will be lots of updates to review.

Community-Based Water Planning Updates: April 2021

- The next Full Collaborative meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 22 from 4:00-8:30pm via Zoom. If folks are comfortable with/interested in meeting in person (as long as all COVID-related guidelines are considered), they can contact Kristen Shelman as she is coordinating a space where community members can Zoom in to the meeting together.
- During the months of March and April, CBWP project staff updated DRAFT Step 2/3 Reports & Key Takeaways Documents for Groundwater Agricultural Use + Domestic Well/ Municipal, circulated all Working Group DRAFT Step 2/3 Reports & Key Takeaways Documents to the Full Collaborative, and updated & circulated the DRAFT Table of Contents for the Groundwater Portion of Integrated Plan. Additionally, six small group discussions based on sub-areas to populate the spreadsheet were held. Sub-areas discussed include: Silver Creek, Donner und Blitzen, Virginia Valley + Windy Point North, Central Harney Valley, Crane, Northeast Harney Valley. The remaining sub-areas to be discussed are Northwest Harney Valley and Weaver Springs/Dog Mountain. Information from such meetings is being compiled on a spreadsheet and is available to view. Conversations during the meeting have been insightful, candid, and productive. We’ll wrap up sub-area discussions in May and will then discuss findings and how such information will be weaved into the groundwater plan with the Full Collaborative.
- The HCWC website has been updated. When visiting hewatershedcouncil.com, use your mouse to hover over “[Community-Based Water Planning](#)” in the menu bar. You’ll see



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options for the CBWP Calendar, CBWP Meeting Materials, CBWP DRAFT Document Clearinghouse (new), CBWP Relevant Presentations (new), and Community Conversations. For a detailed summary of what each option/webpage houses, see below:

- [CBWP Calendar](#): This webpage should show a calendar with all scheduled CBWP-related meetings. Meeting details should be available by clicking on the meeting of interest.
 - [CBWP Meeting Materials](#): This webpage houses meeting materials for each individual Collaborative and/or Working Group meeting (agenda, updates, presentation slides, etc.). Such materials are identical to the materials sent out in the email sent a week prior to the meeting of focus. Use this page if you can't locate the meeting materials email.
 - **New** [CBWP DRAFT Document Clearinghouse](#): This webpage houses DRAFT documents ready for review by Collaborative members for Phase 1 (groundwater). This is a *one-stop-shop* for folks to find all documents relevant to CBWP conversations. You can find all available Step 2 + 3 reports and key takeaways documents, the spreadsheet and associated map, a complete and detailed list of strategy one-pagers and respective draft strategies, and more. Check it out and let me know what else needs to be added!
 - **New** [CBWP Relevant Presentations](#): This webpage offers a complete list of all presentations given to the Collaborative and Working Groups with links to presentation slides/information.
 - [Community Conversations](#): This webpage is still dedicated to Diane Rapaport's blog.
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- The [Legislative Concept](#) (LC) aimed at establishing a fund to assist domestic well users (developed by CBWP Collaborative members in September 2020) continues to move through the legislative process. The LC, now known as House Bill (HB) 3092 was submitted to the Oregon Legislature by Representative Mark Owens and is now considered a Committee Bill. [HB 3092](#) proposes that OWRD establish by rule a grant program to share the cost of remediating domestic groundwater wells in the Greater Harney Valley Area of Concern. The House Committee on Water convened on Thursday, February 25th where HB 3092 was heard and Collaborative members provided testimony. Since then, HB 3092 has gone through two rounds of editing for clarity purposes by Collaborative members, OWRD staff, and Rep. Owens's staff. It is now with the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. For more information, click [here](#).
 - The Aspect Team continues to make progress on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study. They have been focused on stakeholder engagement and are now shifting to content development.

Karen Moon gave an update on the OSU Engineering students project. The Summary of the survey was shared. Members asked if the students could present their results, along with how the



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data collection from the flowmeters went. Karen will ask the students to present at the May meeting.

Strategic Planning

Chairman Jamie McCormack reviewed the action plan portions of the Strategic Plan. Elements of the plan were discussed by reviewing the spreadsheets at the end of the Plan. Goals and champions were reviewed and will be included on future agendas for meetings. Budgeting, funding, developing the “elevator speech” and updating the website were noted.

Board membership: Ben Cate announced that he has accepted a new position with ODF & W in their Clackamas office. The Board all expressed good wishes for Ben in his new position and we will miss his input with the Watershed Council.

The Board reviewed other open positions on the Council and will work on recruiting new members. Ben was asked to give some thought to who may be a good replacement for his position.

New Business

Funding: Holly is looking at additional funding for the Water Planning effort. Karen and Holly have been working on a spreadsheet of past funders along with contact information. Brenda Smith offered to help with coming up with additional possible funding sources.

Minutes: Minutes for the March meeting were reviewed. Ben Cate moved to accept the minutes as presented, Brandon Haslick seconded and the motion was approved. Financials were reviewed. Brenda Smith moved to accept the financial report, Ben Cate seconded and the motion was approved.

Items for next agenda on May 18, 2021 include: Update on results of OSU engineering project from the students. Strategic Action Plan implementation. Board recruitment. Budget for the 20/21 fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator