



# Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – September 21, 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 –

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.*



# 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 who they were and how they are involved with the Council. Each member gave a short update on what is happening in their world.

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

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

Coordinating Committee:

Brandon Haslick shared that he had attended both Coordinating Committee calls this month. During these calls they had debriefed the “tour of the basin” gathering that was held at Owens Hay and thought it was good to have agency people meet more local people. Director Byler attended the CBWP meeting towards the end and then visited with locals after the meeting. The “word smithing” groups have been meeting and working on clarifying the Critical Issues list and the Strategies. These will be reviewed at the October meeting.

CBWP Update

Karen shared the update provided by Holly Mondo

### **Community-Based Water Planning Updates: September 2021**

- The next Full Collaborative meeting will be held on Thursday, September 30 from 5:00pm-8:00pm via Zoom with an in-person option at the Harney County Community Center. The Collaborative will discuss the provisions to the Critical Groundwater Issues List (described below), will hear and provide insight on edits to the list of strategies (more details below), and will engage with Aspect Consulting on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study.
- The August Full Collaborative meeting was a great success! After a last-minute venue change, Collaborative members first discussed the Critical Groundwater Issues List in depth. Then, a consensus decision was held on the recommendation to support the issues identified throughout the planning process. Those eligible to participate in the decision gave their support upon the following provisions: 1) wording on some issues needs to be improved (without changing their intent), 2) an issue regarding legal protection of exempt well users needs to be created, 3) issues raised during sub-area discussions need to be included, 4) the need to address municipal infrastructure needs to be revisited. The Collaborative agreed that the provisions will be up for approval at the October Full Collaborative meeting and that the rest of the document does not need to go through a re-approval process. Nevertheless, consensus was achieved which propels the Collaborative forward in their progress. The Collaborative also heard a process update regarding strategy refinement/evaluation and heard from Aspect Consulting on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study.



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- To continue forward progress of the Collaborative, a group of members met several times during August and September to start the process for strategy refinement. All Collaborative members were invited to participate in the strategy refinement meetings. The goal of these meetings was NOT to alter the intent of the strategy, but rather to offer more clarity and minimize redundancy in Collaborative strategies. The result of the meetings is a cleaned-up strategy list that will be discussed at the September and October Full Collaborative meetings. Project staff are aiming to hold a consensus event on the list of strategies during the October meeting.
- The Aspect Team continues to make progress on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study. They were focused on stakeholder engagement and have now shifted to content development.
- Project staff (Holly Mondo, Ken Bierly, and Karen Moon) participated in a debrief meeting regarding the CBWP's application for BoR's WaterSMART grant, which they were not awarded. BoR staff shared that the application scored highly, but still lacked the specificity necessary to be selected for the grant. Project staff will deliberate whether another application will be submitted.

## **Strategic Planning**

Chairman Jamie asked for help with input. All involved promised to devote time to this after field season. Jamie and Pat committed to meeting before the October meeting.

## **Board membership:**

No progress was made this month.

## **Small Grant Program update:**

The small grant team met to update the bylaws and priorities for the new biennium. These documents were provided to all council members in the meeting packet. They were reviewed together in the meeting. Karen will ask for an email vote to approve the bylaws and priorities.

## **Fair Booth:**

Karen and Angie set up the booth. Jamie reported that she had spent some time sitting at the booth and talking with those who passed by. She reported that the booth had good foot traffic on Saturday while she was there. The information shared was about Community Based Water Planning Collaborative and things the collaborative has been working on for the plan.

## **New Business**

### **Grasshopper & Open ET workshop:**



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Karen is coordinating a workshop in cooperation with the County's NRAC committee and with Dave Bohnert and Dustin Johnson from EOARC. The workshop is planned for Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. ODA will have technicians available to talk with community members regarding planning and treatment for grasshoppers for next summer's expected outbreak and will report on how things went this past summer. The afternoon will be devoted to learning about the Open ET online tool and what it can do for irrigators.

**Meetings:** There was general discussion on whether to return to holding Zoom meetings only, the consensus was to offer the Council office for those who feel comfortable meeting in person with a Zoom option.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the August meeting were reviewed as well as the financials. No approval was made as we were short members for a quorum this evening.

**Items for next agenda on July 20, 2021 include:** Board member recruitment, results of the OPEN ET workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm  
Karen Moon, Coordinator