



# Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2022  
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 5:33pm. Chairman Jamie McCormack welcomed everyone to the meeting, reviewed the agenda and asked each member to share a short update on what is happening in their world. Most are hoping for more rain this spring. Jason Kesling shared about the Senate bill money that will be coming to Harney County for work on fire resiliency. Scientists from EOARC will be holding a meeting in Juntura to talk to landowners about fire breaks. Jamie reported from BLM that they have a serious staffing shortage.

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

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

CBWP Update: Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 5-8pm at the Community Center.

Holly was not available for an update this evening. There was discussion on sharing the “Open File Reports” from OWRD as council members are reporting that members of the community are starting to hear/share some “conspiracy theories” about why the Groundwater Plan is taking so long to be released. There are many questions about the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) that will be formed when the study is released. These documents are available on the HCWC and Harney’s Water Future websites, but there was concern about how to present them to the community without causing further confusion.

The Coordinating Committee update was not available this evening.

### **Strategic Planning**

Karen is working on a draft for a second article for the Burns Times Herald. The topic will be in regard to Water planning. There was discussion about trying to clear up the differences between the Groundwater Study, the upcoming RAC and it’s process and how it will affect groundwater rules within the basin and Place Based Planning – CBWP. The article will be available for council member review in March. Karen will also draft a second article regarding the Groundwater Study and its process.

### **Board membership:**

There was discussion again on the open membership positions on the Council, particularly those from the south end. There was discussion about holding council meetings around the County to make it easier for those from farther out in the County to attend. There was discussion about allowing those areas to designate a representative that perhaps is from there, but lives closer to town who could represent them at council meetings.

Karen will get in touch with Brenda and Jason to discuss further about asking school districts to possibly make their internet available to those who would like to participate by Zoom.



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There was discussion again about possibly having High Desert Partnership, SWCD and WC to hold a joint meeting in Frenchglen or Fields to allow people from those areas to attend.

### **Range Camp**

Chad Boyd shared the results of the meeting held last month just after the council meeting. With the Covid situation still not resolved it was thought best to not hold in person camps again this year. There was discussion about videoing the next camps to create teaching modules that could be available to prepare students to come for camp, and for advertising. Chad worked completed a job description to fly for hiring a Range Camp Coordinator. This person can work on updating the advertising, sponsors and outreach materials for 2023.

### **Discussion on Unrestricted Funds**

Karen shared a spreadsheet she had worked on to help council members understand the different grants and the Admin they had. There was discussion on the commitments that the Council has made for these funds and what possibilities there are for their use.

### **New Business**

**Minutes & Financials:** Minutes for the January meeting were reviewed

The financials were not reviewed, as at this time there was not a quorum. Minutes and financials will be reviewed at the March meeting.

**Items for next agenda:** update for CBWP, metrics around CBWP in the past year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm  
Karen Moon, Coordinator