



# Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – November 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 - 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, Karissa Olsen

## ***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 5:35pm. 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. Everyone was happy with the recent rain and are preparing for winter season.

Karissa Olsen gave a presentation on the Girls Researching the Arts, Science & Technology (GREAT) workshops that were held. A science camp working to create interest for girls with STEM. Female scientists from the Agencies and Research Center interacted with girls 7 & over during three workshops. They used a “superhero” theme to talk about the heroes and villains of natural resource communities. Feedback from both participants and parents was favorable. The group will be working on securing grants to implement the program on a larger scale in the future. Karissa said that photos and a short video will be provided when complete.

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

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

Coordinating Committee: The coordinating committee held a quite lengthy discussion on a proposed addendum to the working agreements regarding what could happen if consensus is reached on a subject, but edits are still needed after the agreement. After lengthy discussion it was decided that the addendum was not needed.

CBWP Update: Next meeting will be held November 18, 2021 from 5-8pm at the Hines Pine Mill House.

Karen shared the update provided by Holly Mondo

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

- The next Full Collaborative meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18 from 5:00pm-8:00pm via Zoom with an in-person option at the Hines Pine Mill House. The Collaborative will discuss suggested additions to the Critical Groundwater Issues List, will go through edits and suggestions on the list of strategies and will hear important updates on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study, Groundwater Plan, and end of the year plans.
- As of November 12, the Oregon Community Foundation approved a Healthy Environment grant in the amount of \$20,000 for the Harney County Watershed Council to continue community-based water planning in the Harney Basin.
- Members of the Collaborative participated in a Participatory Evaluation of Place-Based Planning (PBP) conducted by Portland State University in the form of two different workshops. The workshops aimed to get input on the following types of questions:



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- *What worked well and what did not in place-based planning?*
- *Where did it work well, and where did it work less well?*
- *What explains these differences, and what does this tell us about what is needed for place-based planning to be successful?*
- *What are the key lessons learned that can help smooth plan implementation?*

All aspects of the PBP program, from the application through the review process, were covered. The evaluation team plans to host a follow-up workshop with each place-based collaborative and the state agencies to present their findings. This will be an opportunity for participants to give feedback on the evaluation results and discuss the implications for their work going forward.

- During the October Full Collaborative meeting, the Collaborative heard and accepted changes made to the Issues List based on provisions created at the August meeting, then they heard about and discussed changes made to strategies, achieved consensus on the strategy list, and engaged with Aspect Consulting on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study. The following process was agreed to by Collaborative members for strategy edits after the consensus events:
  - *Everyone is encouraged to continue thinking about the strategies after the consensus event.*
  - *If there are any strategies that are missing or need additional refining, Collaborative members should submit their suggestions by **Wednesday, November 10.***
  - *Those suggestions will then be circulated to the rest of the Collaborative by **Thursday, November 11** for review.*
  - *During the **November 18** Full Collaborative meeting, all suggestions will be reviewed and discussed in depth.*
  - *Strategies will be refined based on suggestions with a final review during the **December 16** Full Collaborative meeting. An additional consensus event is planned for the December meeting where the level of support for the November suggestions to the strategy list will be gauged.*
  - *It is the goal to have an as complete as possible draft of the Groundwater Plan done by **December 31.***
- To continue forward progress of the Collaborative, a group of members, called the Pathway to Sustainability committee are still meeting on Monday afternoons to discuss the Table of Contents of the Groundwater Plan and provide input where appropriate.
- The Aspect Team continues to make progress on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study. At this point, they are focused on content development and are determining how the Collaborative can have input on the draft report.



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Karen also shared that we had received grant dollars from Oregon Community Foundation in the amount of \$20,000 for continuing operation of CBWP.

Brenda Smith shared that there was a big push to get a draft groundwater portion of the plan completed by the end of the year. There was a discussion coming up on how plans are reviewed at OWRD.

The news was shared that Harmony Burrighat was leaving OWRD. Steve Parette will be taking over the two planning groups that Harmony was working with. Harmony will be working with the Oregon Association of Counties and working part-time for Representative Owens in regards to water planning.

Members are still questioning when the OWRD/USGS groundwater study will be released.

## **Strategic Planning**

The Burns Times Herald article was published this last week. Jamie and Pat are the principle authors. Discussion on a follow up article for January took place. A small group will work on a draft to be submitted before sending to the paper. Ideas considered for the article are past and present projects.

## **Board membership:**

Members reviewed the positions and talked about advertising for vacancies. Karen provided a copy of the membership with those terms expiring the end of December at the November meeting. Members are encouraged to talk to those who they feel may be interested in joining the Council. Karen will reach out to those members whose terms are expiring.

## **New Business**

**Minutes & Financials:** Minutes for the August, September and October meetings were reviewed and approved. Pat Sharp moved to approve with Alexa Martinez second.

The financials were reviewed. There were some questions about how admin dollars and Karen was requested to provide a more detailed documentation of what grants the Admin dollars had been received. The board will have a discussion on allocation of these funds at the January meeting. After discussion Pat Sharp moved to approve the financial report, Jason Kesling seconded and the motion was approved.

## **Items for next agenda on July 20, 2021 include:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm  
Karen Moon, Coordinator