



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Minutes – October 19, 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 5:43pm. 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.

Chad Boyd shared that they are working on a virtual fence for cattle. Currently they are trying it out on cows in a small pasture. Jamie McCormack shared that they are working on closing out FY 21 and working on planning for FY22. Reporting on field season is in progress. Jason Kesling reported that the SWCD is working on three large grants for submission. They have a number of small grants to submit and they are working on quarterly billing and reporting.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Coordinating Committee:

CBWP Update

Karen shared the update provided by Holly Mondo

Community-Based Water Planning Updates: October 2021

The next Full Collaborative meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28 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), those eligible will participate in a consensus event on the list of strategies and will engage with Aspect Consulting on the Groundwater Market Feasibility Study.

□ During the September Full Collaborative meeting, the Collaborative heard the changes made to the Issues List based on provisions created at the August meeting, then they heard about and discussed changes made to strategies, provided input on a timeline update, and engaged with Aspect Consulting on the groundwater market feasibility study.

□ To continue forward progress of the Collaborative, a group of members, called the Pathway to Sustainability committee are meeting on Monday afternoons to discuss the Table of Contents of the Groundwater Plan. Currently, they are focused on populating an outline for a chapter dedicated to desired conditions in the basin.

□ Project staff are aiming to complete a draft of the groundwater portion of the Integrated Water Plan by the end of December 2021.

□ 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.



Harney County Watershed Council

Strategic Planning

Chairman Jamie asked for help with input. Jamie and Pat committed to meeting before the October meeting and having a draft of an article for the paper ready before the next meeting. Further discussion on a radio interview will take place after the newspaper article.

Board membership:

Members reviewed the positions and talked about advertising for vacancies. Karen will provide a copy of the membership with those terms expiring the end of December at the November meeting.

There was some discussion that some member have received feedback and questions about what the Council does and does not do.

Small Grant Program update:

Karen will ask for an email vote to approve the bylaws and priorities. Karen will gather the documentation that both the WC and SWCD have approved the bylaws and priorities and send the documents to OWEB for approval.

New Business

Grasshopper & Open ET workshop:

The workshop took place on September 27th. There was good attendance both morning and afternoon.

The grasshopper portion of the workshop was very informative and the ODA presenters did a terrific job of educating those present on the life stages and the importance of tracking where the grasshoppers are moving to and from to identify where to treat at the best possible stage. Feedback from the afternoon session felt that perhaps the Open ET researchers got a bit “too much in the weeds” for some of the people attending.

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 & September meeting were tabled 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:

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator