



Harney County Watershed Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, APRIL 16, 2024
meeting by Zoom & HCWC office
Hines, Oregon

Membership & Attendance:
(those in attendance will be highlighted)

Landowner positions:

Alvord –
Donner und Blitzen – Fred Otley
Guano –
Harney/Malheur Lakes –
Silvies –
Silver Creek – **Angie Ketscher**
Drewsey –
Landowner General – **Pat Sharp**
Burns Paiute Tribe – Brandon Haslick

Concerned Citizen positions:

Burns/Hines –
At Large –
General - Rep. Mark Owens
Sportsman – **Sam Artaiz**
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 – Jess Wennick
NRCS – Rachel Beaubien
EOARC – Chad Boyd
OWRD – Dally Swindlehurst
USFS -

Staff

Coordinator – Karen Moon

Guests –

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 5:00pm.

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.

Members shared that spring work was getting done, cows were being turned out on grass. Sam Artaiz shared that this will be his last meeting as he has accepted a position with US Fish & Wildlife in Alaska working on the Keni Wildlife Refuge. Jamie McCormack also shared this is her last meeting as she and her husband are moving to Heppner and Jamie will be going back to the Forest Service up there. Karen reported that it had been a busy month with reporting and fiscal requests.

Continuing project updates/action items

Strategic Planning:

Council members worked through the Strategic Plan and updated goals. There was some discussion on whether the coordinator should make the updates and have council members review. The majority of the members felt that we should all go through things together and have the coordinator make the updates. Karen will make updates and try to send out a couple of weeks before the next meeting so members have time to review. The hope is to have an updated plan by June.

Community Based Water Planning update:

Brandon Haslick reported on the discussions taking place with the Coordinating Committee for CBWP. Work on the strategies is moving forward and there is some discussion on how to deal with several problems that may present themselves. Referring to how things were written with regard to similar situations within the groundwater portion seems to be a good place to start to deal with some of the conflicts. There is discussion on starting to think about an implementation strategy and what an implementation team may look like. Karen, Holly and Ken will be reviewing the funding to determine our timeline and whether or not more funding will be needed.

Membership:

Was not discussed this evening

New Business

Division 512 Rulemaking



Harney County Watershed Council

The last several meetings have been quite contentious with the meeting agenda kind of going off track. Members of the public as well as committee members continue to have questions and are not sure whether their input is being considered. The April meeting for Division 512 rules has been postponed for now.

Karen and council members discussed whether there is a need for another public meeting on the Groundwater Study to help inform members of the public?

Range Camp:

Range Camp is being planned for April 25 through the 28th. Grocery shopping will take place over the weekend, the new kitchen at the Butte is very nice! Participation is at max and a bit more. Karen has started a “square” account so that the Council can accept credit cards to accept payment for the camp fees.

Minutes & Financials:

Minutes for the January, February and March meetings were reviewed.

Financials were reviewed.

Items for next agenda: Next meeting will be May 21, 2024. The Strategic plan, a budget for 24/25 and planning for the second Range Camp will be the main agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Karen Moon, Coordinator