



Harney County Watershed Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 21, 2023
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 – Rachel Beaubien
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 –
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 – Dally Swindlehurst
USFS -

Staff
Coordinator – Karen Moon

Guests – Sam Artize, Jason Kesling

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.



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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 a short update on what is happening in their world.

Members shared that there is a big difference in snow pack from town to the Refuge. The SWCD will be holding their Annual Meeting this week, some are looking forward to field season, the Society for Range Management is holding their conference next week in Boise, there is still a lot of snow and ice around. The Tribe will be holding a Fisheries Outreach meeting for the treatments planned at High Lake and Upper Lake from 6-9pm tomorrow evening.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Karen shared an update from Holly Mondo that was presented last month.

- The Collaborative is currently working on place-based planning Steps 2 and 3 via 4 different working groups (Ecological, Vegetation Management, Surface Water Management, and Surface water - Groundwater Interaction). These Working groups are drafting reports on Steps 2 and 3, which will then be reviewed by the Collaborative at the end of May when reports are due. From now until May, each Working Group will be providing a monthly update to the Collaborative on their progress. The Collaborative is encouraged to follow each Working Group's progress to stay up to date and to provide input on their work.
- In June, the Collaborative will transition to working through their list of critical surface water issues, informed by Step 2 and 3 reports. The Coordinating Committee is currently working on developing a robust process for generating the critical issues list and coming up with strategies to address issues.
- The Collaborative is on schedule to wrap up surface water planning by February 2024.

Coordinating Committee – Brandon Haslick shared that the Coordinating Committee has been working on the best way to tackle the “Critical Issues List” that needs to be created. The group would like to learn from the Groundwater process and hopefully have a more streamlined approach. There was discussion whether we needed a February meeting as the working groups are in the midst of working on their Step 2 & 3 documents. It was decided to hold a February



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meeting to keep up momentum, and to have OWRD give another presentation on the Rules Advisory Committee that will be convened in April regarding groundwater. People still seem to be confused about the process.

The next CBWP full collaborative meeting will be February 23, 2023, from 5-6:30pm.

There was discussion amongst the group whether we need to designate a new person as “convener” for the Watershed Council since Brenda has left the Council. Karen will share the “role of the convener” from the Place Based Planning Guidelines to Council members. Brandon Haslick was nominated. A vote will be taken at the March meeting.

Strategic Planning: There was discussion on content for another newspaper article. Perhaps the transition of water planning from groundwater to surface water. Perhaps Holly could help get something started.

Karen participated with Mindy Gould on Harney County Live on March 1 and will share the link to the recording before the next meeting.

February 1, 2023

<https://omny.fm/shows/harney-county-live-podcast/karen-moon-harney-county-watershed-council-2-1-23>

Membership:

Discussion on holding meetings around the County again. It was thought that perhaps a meeting in Diamond or the Frenchglen area? Karen will contact the school to see about arranging a meeting in Diamond, perhaps in May or June.

Comment period for Oregon Desert Land Trust Land Acquisition application:

Jamie McCormack and Pat Sharp have shared comments about the application. Karen will send a draft comment letter out for review at the next meeting.

New Business

Range Camp:

Karen shared that plans for College Range Camp are going ahead for a weekend in April. Most likely the 20th through the 24th. After discussion, Pat Sharp moved to cover the costs of purchasing groceries, with a reimbursement of \$50.00 from each participant to be collected. Jason Kesling seconded and the motion passed.

Coordinator Review: The Executive Committee shared their review of the financials and proposed that the Coordinators salary be increased by \$500 per month. Jason Kesling moved



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to accept the recommendation, Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed. Jason also volunteered to help Karen to set up a “payment schedule” for future cost of living raises.

Self -evaluation:

With a full agenda this evening members thought there was not enough time to devote to a thorough review of the self-evaluation forms. Karen will reach out to those who have not completed them and will compile the results from those who have completed the form. Review of the summary will be made at the March meeting.

Bylaw review:

Karen send out, and shared a copy of the Council’s bylaws for a review. It was noted that after our last update to our Strategic Plan, we had not updated our bylaws with the new Mission and Vision. Several other items were discussed. Karen will update and email out. Our bylaws state that council members have 30 days to review before voting on changes. Karen will email out a draft for discussion at the March meeting. A vote will be taken at the April Council meeting.

Karen will send out a copy of the Policies & Procedures document for review at the March meeting as well. This is in response to requirements of the Council Support grant application that is being prepared for the 23-25 biennium.

Minutes & Financials: Financials were reviewed. Minutes for the November and January meeting were reviewed. Jason Kesling moved to accept the minutes as presented and the financials. Pat Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

Items for next agenda: Next meeting will be March 21, 2023. Items proposed include CBWP update, Strategic planning, Membership, Comments for Land Acquisition grant, review of Policies & Procedures, and new projects.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator