



Harney County Watershed Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 17 , 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 – 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 – Dally Swindlehurst
USFS -

Staff

Coordinator – Karen Moon

Guests – Sam Artize

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 5:30pm. 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.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Karen shared an update from Holly Mondo that was presented last month. We reviewed the power point presentation that talked about CBWP goals that were reached last year, including completion and consensus of the groundwater portion of the Integrated plan. This was also reviewed by OWRD's Plan Review Team, and feedback was shared with the Collaborative. Goals for 2023 were also shared in this presentation.

Coordinating Committee – The Coordinating Committee worked on Holly and Ken's updates to the Groundwater portion of the plan in response to the PRT (Project Review Team)

The next CBWP full collaborative meeting will be January 26, 2023 from 5-7pm.

Funding for CBWP includes the completion of the grant agreement with OWRD for the ARPA funds that they received for all four of the PBP pilot groups. There was notice from Jessica Keys who works for Senator Merkley that the funding we applied for through discretionary funds, that the bill had passed and was headed for the President's desk for signature the end of December. It will take a few months, but those dollars will be distributed through one of the agencies as per Jessica's email. Both pots of money will fund water planning through 2024 if need be plus several projects to help support the surface water portion of the plan. Karen will send the project descriptions out to council members for them to review.

Strategic Planning: There was discussion on content for another newspaper article. Perhaps the transition of water planning from groundwater to surface water. Karen received an email asking if someone from the WC would be interested in talking with Harney County Live at the radio station. Karen will call her back later this week. Several commented that you can send questions to be asked ahead of time to direct the conversation if need be.

Karen also informed members that the WC will be celebrating 25 years since they started this summer. A celebration should be planned for summer.



Harney County Watershed Council

Membership: Karen received a letter from Brenda Smith stating that since her 3 year term was up that she would not be continuing on for another 3 year term with the Council. Brenda has been a member of the Council for 8 years. Everyone expressed their gratitude for Brenda's dedication to the WC, and the partnership with HDP will continue.

There was discussion about filling more of the empty positions that the Council currently has. Sam Artize was present this evening and is thinking about joining the Council. Sam is currently an employee of NRCS and part time with the SWCD here in Hines.

Members offered to contact others that they may think would be good candidates for membership. There was discussion about holding more council meetings around the County. We will try to travel more this spring and summer to talk to folks who live farther out in our community.

There was discussion on getting notices of our meetings out in the community more. Our meetings are posted in the Burns Times Herald "Community Calendar" and posted on our website. Karen shares meeting notices on the Facebook page as well.

Comment period for Oregon Desert Land Trust Land Acquisition application: Council members feel it is important to submit public comments regarding the application. Karen will email out the application again for members to review. Input to the comments will be emailed back to Karen by February 7th so Karen can draft the comment letter. Council members will review and vote to submit at the February Council meeting.

New Business

Request from Crane FFA for review of Ag Issues: Karen received a phone call with a request from the Crane FFA advisor Kailee Davis to see if members of the Council would be willing to help FFA members with their Ag Issues presentation. Karen returned the phone call but has not heard back regarding details.

Range Camp: Karen shared an email from Chad Boyd regarding College Range Camp that is being planned for April. Several colleges who have participated in the past were contacted. Two weekends in April are being proposed. Karen and Angie have agreed to cook for the camp as in the past. Council members are encouraged to participate in any way they choose.

Coordinator Review: The Executive Committee has gone through the form and talked about Karen's review. Results were satisfactory. Discussion on a salary increase or a bonus will continue and an update will be given at the February meeting.



Harney County Watershed Council

Officer elections: There was discussion on the election of officers for the Council for the next two years. A motion was made by Angie Ketscher to recommend the slate of Jamie McCormack for Chair, Brandon Haslick for Vice-Chair and Pat Sharp for Sec/Treas for the years of 2023-2024. Motion was seconded by Dustin Johnson. At this point we were short one for a quorum. Karen will send an email request for vote to Council members.

Karen sent the request and received unanimous votes to accept the slate of officers
(1/20/2023)

At this point in time Brenda Smith's resignation was accepted. It was noted that for purposes of check signing, that the slate of officers is remaining the same, however Brenda Smith and Diane Rapaport should be removed from the bank account.

Earth Day participation: Karen received an email with information to participate in Earth Day in April of 2023. After discussion it was noted that this would end up being the same weekend as Range Camp. We can consider participating again next year.

Minutes & Financials: Financials were reviewed. Minutes for the November and January meeting will be approved at the February meeting.

Items for next agenda: Next meeting will be February 21, 2023. Items proposed include CBWP update, Strategic planning, Membership, Comments for Land Acquisition grant, possible presentation by Mark Hudson from OAT.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator