



Harney County Watershed Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 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

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 a short update on what is happening in their world.

Members shared that the SWCD is working on spring applications for OWEB and waiting for snow to melt to start getting out in the field talking to Landowners. Shared that irrigating is getting a late start due to the amount of cold weather and snow. The Tribe is gearing up for their big project on the Strawberries. Waiting for snow to melt and looking forward to College Range Camp. Hoping that hiring fills open slots to make field season a bit easier on employees.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Karen shared an update that working groups have continued on with their work, but most meetings, including the full Collaborative meeting scheduled for Thursday have been postponed due to Holly having a family emergency.

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. Brandon stated he was able to fill this role.

Strategic Planning:

The discussion for a new newspaper article was postponed until April. Other ideas brought up were to talk about Range Camp, or ask Tony Svejcar if he would put something together about historic snowpack? How many records have been broken over the past few years? How have things changed?

There was discussion about the 25th Anniversary, and a sub-committee of Karen and Jamie was tasked with early discussions about Date, Venue, Guest List, menu and possible music. Should there be any talks or presentations?

Membership:

There was a short discussion on possible people to approach about membership.

Comment period for Oregon Desert Land Trust Land Acquisition application:

The consensus on comments for the project center around perhaps waiting until Oregon Desert Land Trust has their plans in order to consider funding this project.



Harney County Watershed Council

New Business

Range Camp:

Dustin shared that there has been response from six universities, several SWCD's and possibly the summer crew from HDP who would like to attend Range Camp. There is a range from 40-59 so far. Angie and Karen are preparing the menu and shopping list.

Self evaluation & Bylaw review:

The Self evaluation was discussed and accepted. Bylaws and policies were reviewed. Changes will be voted on at the April meeting.

Minutes & Financials:

Minutes and financials were tabled until the April meeting due to several members who need to leave early.

Items for next agenda: Next meeting will be April 18, 2023. Items proposed include CBWP update, Strategic planning, Membership, review of Policies & Procedures, and new projects.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator