



# Harney County Watershed Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 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 – **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 – Zola Ryan  
EOARC – Chad Boyd  
OWRD – Dally Swindlehurst  
USFS -

Staff

Coordinator – Karen Moon

Guests – Jason Kesling - 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 5:35pm.

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 in the Malheure drainage with numerous juniper projects. BLM is working on their normal fall projects, budgeting and planning, finishing up field work, allotment management plans and planning juniper projects for this next year. Dustin shared that the new building at EOARC is coming along slowly.

## **Continuing project updates/action items**

### **Community Based Water Planning update:**

Karen gave an update on the water planning collaborative. A consensus event on Steps 2 & 3 took place at the October meeting, except for one working group, documents will continue to be reviewed and hopefully reach consensus in November. Work began on the Critical Issues list presented by each working group. Karen shared that Oregon Community Foundation had awarded another grant for the process, and a check was received.

**Membership:** Discussion on open positions took place. It was noted that our “landowner” positions need recruitment. There was discussion on having more pieces in the paper and posts on Facebook. Karen will work on updating the website as well.

### **Other Projects:**

- a. Congressional Funds Grant agreement was signed, Karen is working on signing up with ACEP, and renewing the SAM registration.
- b. Five Mile Dam agreement is complete – the contractors were here for a site evaluation the beginning of October. The plan is still to have a meeting with water users in January.
- c. Silvies River Hydraulic Model contract is complete and moving forward. Talks with the high school science teachers to have students help with data collection are moving forward.

**Range Camp:** College camp is being planned for April 25 – 28<sup>th</sup>, with a possible new camp for May that would “train the trainer”. This would be for possibly school teachers, interns, natural resource managers.



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**Strategic Planning:** There was discussion on the Strategic plan, and it ending the end of December. It was thought that the next Strategic Plan should run for about 5 years. Karen will take a first “go” at a draft and email to Council members before the January meeting.

Division 512 Rules: Group met October 25. There was much discussion around sub-areas and discussing the need for keeping the Critical Groundwater area boundary the same as the Area of Concern. The CREP program, for one is using the Area of Concern Boundary as a requirement for inclusion in the program. Karen will forward meeting materials to Council members. Next meeting is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business**

### **OWEB applications**

Cow Creek and Soldier Creek TA application was funded, waiting for the Grant Agreement to arrive.

### **Minutes & Financials:**

Minutes for October meeting were reviewed, Sam moved to approve the minutes as presented, Brandon seconded and the motion passed.

Financials were reviewed.

**Items for next agenda:** Next meeting will be January 16, 2024. There will be no meeting in December. Items proposed include CBWP update, Strategic planning and membership and project updates. The Executive committee will still hold their meeting in December.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Karen Moon, Coordinator