



Harney County Watershed Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 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 –
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 –

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 5:31pm.

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 they have been busy with fall cow work, working on the new fiscal year and glad a shutdown was averted for now. Planning for juniper work in both the North Steens and Drewsey areas for next year. Field work is coming to a close and the Tribe is working on the bridge at Jonesboro.

Continuing project updates/action items

Community Based Water Planning update:

Karen gave an update on the water planning collaborative. The group is discussing the Step 2 & 3 documents. There is another discussion as to whether this portion of the plan is considered a “living” document, or meant to be a snapshot in time. There will be a consensus event at the October meeting. Next meeting will be October 26, 2023.

Karen reported that the field tour was a success for the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

Strategic Planning:

Planning for future articles is underway. There was discussion on reviewing the Strategic plan, it technically closes the end of this year and is in need of an update. Karen will send out the current plan for review before the November meeting.

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 project is moving ahead and will hopefully have options for the water users in January.
- c. Silvies River Hydraulic Model contract is complete and moving forward.
- d. Beaver Habitat project – contact has been made with the proposed contractor. We are waiting for review from the University of Minnesota.

Division 512 Rulemaking

Next meeting will be October 25th at 1pm in the Community Center and on Zoom

New Business



Harney County Watershed Council

OWEB applications

Cow Creek and Soldier Creek TA applications were both recommended to be funded, however staff feels that Soldier Creek may fall below the funding line. The OWEB board meetings the end of October.

Soldier Creek will be resubmitted and another TA grant farther up in the Silvies will also be submitted for the October deadline to OWEB.

The Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative submitted a second Focused Investment application as well. The Five Mile Dam installation will be included with this if it is funded. We are also looking at the US Fish & Wildlife funding for fish screens and passage as part of the funding process for Five Mile Dam.

Minutes & Financials:

Minutes for the August meeting were reviewed(there was no meeting in September) Angie Ketscher moved to approve the August minutes. Sam Artize seconded and the motion passed.

Financials were reviewed.

Items for next agenda: Next meeting will be November 21, 2023. Items proposed include CBWP update, Strategic planning and membership and project updates.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm
Karen Moon, Coordinator