

Minutes of the meeting for the South Fork John Day River Watershed Council

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 13th day of September 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, by Joanne Keerins, at the Izee Schoolhouse.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Mike Keerins, Alternate Director	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director
Richard Nelson, Director	M.T. Anderson, Director	Amy Charette, Director and CTWS	Scott Hess, Director	Aaron Roth, NRCS

Quorum was present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 7 were represented at this meeting.

1. Agency Reports

- a. Aaron Roth, NRCS: Their doors are closed again, following COVID protocols. They can meet outside if needed. Still collecting CSP documentation for 2020, which is due at the end of the month. EQIP/RCPP deadline for 2021, application sign up deadline is November 19th. CSP renewal, interviews in October. Encouraging landowners to get their RCPP contracts signed and return as soon as possible. Landowners need to make sure to have signed contract and cultural clearance, and signed job sheets before starting. Their agreement is with the landowner, up to landowner to do the work or hire contractor. SFJDWC can provide contractor list, if you do hire contractor make sure they get job sheets, so they know expectations. Phil: what kind of changes have been made to the RCPP process, and why the review required at the national level? Aaron: a lot is software related, first year for RCPP to follow new protocol. Landowners sign now, then bundled and send up to National. Joanne: anticipated time frame? Pushing for end of federal fiscal year, by the end of September. Scott: asked about his CSP, he has to get an evaluation by range management consultant. He was given a list, but none are in Oregon, are there alternatives? Aaron: there should be some people from Oregon, and he would follow up with Scott.
- b. Amy Charette, CTWS: Working on planting projects in October, and developing statement of work for next year. Will be losing some staff, so if need anything contact Amy C. Phil: any extra plantings to give away this fall? They might, will let folks know when they figure out what they have left.
- c. Grant SWCD: Kyle Sullivan out of the office for a couple weeks.

2. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: Phil moved to approve, Jeff 2nd, motion passed
- b. August Meeting Minutes: Jeff motioned to approve, Phil 2nd, motion passed
- c. August Staff Time: Jeff motioned to approve, Phil 2nd, motion passed.

3. Staff Report

- a. Grant Proposals
 - i. Fall OWEB submittals:
 1. Caribou Aspen,
 2. Sunflower Grazing Management
 3. Sue is planning a presentation on South Fork Aspen work for the October OWEB meeting.

- ii. Spring Cycle Results:
 - 1. All applications were recommended for funding
 - a. 3 out of 4 for our Murderers Ck Mussel Monitoring
 - b. 2 of 3 for John Day Basin Upland Prioritization
 - c. 3 of 9 for BLM South Fork Fire Fence reconstruction
 - d. 5 of 9 for Hole in the Ground Upland Health
 - e. 8 of 9 Widows Creek Ranch Upland Health
- b. Monthly Report
 - i. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Rockpile Ranch Annual Grass Treatment. Hannah worked with Matt Wenick who was able to get huge cost savings on the Rejuvra spray for annual grasses. Instead of 200 acres of treatment, they were able to treat the entire 640 acres.
 - ii. Landscape Scale Restoration South Fork John Day Forest Partnership kick off field trip is being planned. M.T. Anderson, and Jeff Maben expressed interest in also attending.
 - iii. John Day Basin Partnership Coordination, Hannah has been announced as the next Partnership Coordinator and her duties will begin Oct 1st.
 - iv. Murderers Creek Mussel Monitoring: Huge kudos to Hannah, Michele Weaver, and Emilie Blevens for all of their time and coordination.
 - v. RCPP outreach events: Newspaper, Radio, Fair, phone calls, postcards, Landowner/Contractor Field trip, and PWSWA informational dates
 - vi. RCPP Cultural Resource Contracting: Warm Springs Geovisions
 - vii. RCPP contracting with landowners: reiterating what Aaron said, signed contracts are due as soon as possible, and landowners need to wait for the official go-ahead from Aaron's office before starting any project work.
- c. Projects – Planning
 - i. OWEB small grants will be opening soon
 - ii. Moon Creek site visit: Phil motioned to move forward with working with this landowner, and attempt to find them funding for restoration, but stated that we need to discuss policy, and the desire to keep the South Fork John Day Watershed as priority. Jeff 2nd, Amy C. stated that the tribes doesn't have capacity, but can possibly help with RCPP funds. Motion passed.
 - iii. Bark Project Planning: We will begin planning project implementation options. Jeff asked if there may be a Stewardship opportunity.

4. Discussion

- a. Project Requests: last month we had 4 requests for assistance outside of our service area
- b. Wild and Scenic update: sat in on Wyden's Townhall. Really nothing new, the townhall was one-sided, and in-favor of the Act. Did reiterate that it would have no effect on private lands.
- c. Pickup Purchase update: M.T. motioned to authorize Amy to move forward with buying the presented pickup, phil 2nd, motion passed.

5. Coming Up

- a. 9/20/21: BLM Good Neighbor Authority Field Visit
- b. 9/22/21: LSR field visit (send jeff, m.t.)
- c. 10/6-10/11: SFJDWC Staff on Vacation
- d. 10/20/2021: RCPP Landowner/Contractor Field Trip
- e. 11/1/2021: OWEB Open Solicitation Deadline

6. Adjourn, Next meeting date: Tuesday October 12th, 2021.