

South Fork John Day Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
January 13th, 2024
1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by Joanne Keerins.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Joanne & Mike Keerins, SFJDWC Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Scott Hess, Treasurer	Jeff Maben, Director
Richard Nelson, Director	Jim Dovenberg, Director	M.T. Anderson, Director	Erick Keerins	Brandon Ferguson, ODF	Rob Pentzer, ODF
Adele Underwood, ODF	Dusin Gustaveson, ODF	Brandon Vos, ODF	Greg Shafer, BMRD Malheur NF	Charles Brown, BLM	Hannah Smith, NRCS
Jake Buce, ODFW PWSWA	Cal Makumoto, ODF	Nathan Beckman, ODF			

With 7 out of 7 directors in attendance, a quorum was present.

1. Public Comment
2. Agency Reports (5 minutes per agency)
 - a. Hannah Smith, NRCS: going through their ranking process for 113 EQIP applications
 - b. Brandon Ferguson, ODF: welcoming new community wildfire forester, Adel Underwood. Graduate of University of Montana. They are recruiting additional NRS-2. The GNA crews and protection staff finished up on the Wildlife Area, 280 acres fuels reduction
 - c. Jake Buce, ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area: applying Open Range G and Rejuvra in the Murderers Ck area. Seeding with range drills and helicopter. Working on volunteer juniper cuts, and maintaining roads.

3. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Phil St. Clair	Jeff Maben	No	Passed

- b. Staff Time

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Phil	Jeff	No	Passed

- c. Minutes

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Phil	Jeff Maben	No	Passed

- d. Financials

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Phil	Jeff	No	Passed

4. Staff Report

- a. Murderers Creek Phase II: Hannah will be attending the DGA meeting with ODFW and BLM to update on this project.
- b. RCPP: the RCPP renewal was approved for \$3.4M

5. Discussion

- a. Forest Resilience Discussion with ODF
 - i. Looking at watershed scale work, and everyone working together

- ii. Upland, vast in acreage, and impacts on downstream ecology, if burning at the level that is occurring throughout the county. Utley Roadless area, unmanaged, resulting in fire waiting to happen. Looking for whatever help, advice direction, to prevent from happening
- iii. ODF, working on 20year plan. Achieve interagency planning to implement forest resiliency projects. ODF committed to assisting. Take care of 6M ac forest lands. Landscapes dependent on fire. Unmanaged, creating fuels that rapidly burn. On the Eastside, need policies, proper way to approach rangelands.
- iv. Cal has resigned and Kate Skinner will be taking over. Committed to resiliency projects.
- v. Limiting factor is funding, treatments cost money. Need to reintroduce fire as a natural part of ecosystem. Fire could be useful tool if implemented properly.
- vi. Nathan: 20-yr strategy. Understand cross boundary, landscape scale.
 - 1. Commitment from fed & state, OWEB, ODFW, NRCS, BLM. Coordinating actions
 - 2. Investments: fighting for LRP.
 - 3. Work cross boundary, setting priorities. Our letter hit all of the priorities of this 20-yr strategy
 - 4. Funding needed to deal with resiliency, looking at billions \$\$
 - 5. Encouraging FS to put more wood into contracts, can't get HCP
 - 6. Would like to see the industries using smaller diameter wood, to help pay for resiliency long term
 - 7. We need to do something about this, board is aware, legislatures are aware, not just suppression, needs homes, and landscape resiliency
- vii. How do we become a High priority?
 - 1. Local groups looking at need across landscape, where is ready, what is needed on landscape. What is overall need, direct resources to right places. Work with local ODF to take strategy to next level.
 - 2. Do try to take funding and put in right places where we'll get the most out of it. Trying to develop process to work together.

6. Coming Up

- a. **Director Elections:** Phil and Joanne's terms are up, with 1 vacant, will do at Feb meeting
- b. Tuesday, February 18th from 1 – 4 PM, NRCS Local workgroup meeting

7. Executive Session, to discuss employee reviews, Phil moved to adopt the proposed employee salaries/wages/benefits, Jeff 2nd, motion passed.

8. Adjourn, Next meeting date: **Monday February 10th, 2025**