

**South Fork John Day Watershed Council
Meeting Agenda
January 13th, 2025**

1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81870244326>

Meeting ID: 818 7024 4326

One tap mobile

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1. Public Comment

2. Agency Reports (5 minutes per agency)

- a. Updates from attending agencies.
 - i. NRCS: ranking process for 113 EQIP apps, Feb 28th deadline
 - ii. New community wildfire forester, Adel, Univ of Montana, recruiting additional NRS-2, hoping to fill quickly
Finished with GNA crews and protection unit staff on PWSWA, 280 acres additional fuels reduction, combination with SFJD Forestry partnership
Contracted 160 out of 203 acres for pile burning
13 major fires this year, 90% complete with surveys. Work with stewardship foresters get reports
Post fire restoration, ODF tasked with WA? Aerial seeding? No, ODFW will handle. Seedlings? Yes, get signed up for EFRP through FSA, sign up by April 1st. Pays for 75% of cost.
Putting in OWEB grant hope to take care of 25% landowner piece.

Jake: open range G, Rejuvra, mostly in murd ck area. Seeding with range drills, helicopters. Volunteer juniper cuts. Maintain roads, fire breaks, bau.

3. Action Items

- a. Staff Reimbursement Request: phil moved, jeff 2nd, passed
- b. Staff Time: phil moved, jeff 2nd, passed
- c. Minutes: phil moved, jeff 2nd, passed
- d. Financials: phil moved, jeff 2nd, passed

4. Staff Report

- a. Project updates
 - i. Murderers Ck Phase II: Hannah attending DGA. FS/ODFW fence?
 - ii. RCPP

5. Discussion

- a. Forest Resiliency 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, in order to prevent from happening
 - iii. Nathan, working on 20year plan. Achieve interagency planning to implement forest resiliency projects. Fed Forest Restoration, implementing projects with GNA. Uncertain of fed funding in future. ODF committed to assisting. Take care of 6M ac forest lands. Never get ahead of wildfire situation. Landscapes dependent on fire. Unmanaged, creating fuels that rapidly burn. On Eastside, need policies, proper way to approach rangelands. Burn quickly, due to flashy fuels.
 - iv. Kate Skinner will be taking over. Committed to resiliency projects, help carry through.
 - v. don't have big bucket of money, treatments cost money. Need to reintroduce fire as 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. 70 engines in CA now
8. We need to do something about this, board is aware, legislatures are aware, not just suppression, needs homes, and landscape resiliency
- vii. Richard: always seem to have millions of millions of funds to fight fire. Cal: argue do not have millions. Money gets burned up very quickly.
- viii. Money comes out after the fact. Thinks legislature is realizing this.
- ix. Suggestions for WC to address URA?
 1. Talk to fed reps: 2 senators, talk to local FS & BLM
- x. 6 million acres? All across Oregon in extreme need of treatment
 1. Map of 6 M acres? Nathan give copies. Series of assessments done, showing priority areas in John Day. In 20 year strategy id 7.7 M acres.
 2. 20 year plan for entire state? Yes, all lands, 6 agencies and governors office. ID priorities, and coordinate actions.
 3. Could be different treatment objectives with Western OR to East OR
 - a. Yes, current conditions, actions needed, workforce readiness
 4. Follow up with Bentz.
 5. Any funds right now committed to Forest Health? Yes, \$10M. Is that \$10M total, per year? What funding is there?
 - a. Id 40 plus funding sources. ODF manages 13. 2 are State, SB 762. Right now, fighting to get state funding.
 - b. State receiving fed funds to address state concerns.
 6. How do we become a High priority?
 - a. Local groups looking at need across landscape, where is ready, what is need on landscape. What is overall need, direct resources to right places. Work with local ODF to take strategy to next level.
 - b. 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.
 7. Interagency planning, agreements across the different agencies that tie to a product? Is there incentive to pay any attention to the plan? do have an agreement, that all signed onto. His takeaway is that they are committed to seeing through.
 8. Finally starting to catch attention of all oregonians
 9. Stewardship MOU, signed in 2019.
 10. Nathan will share report with all of this information.
 11. Kudos to high functioning local partners
 12. Any bills going forth?
 - a. Wildfire suppression funding, making sure adequate and sustainable

Do want us to meet kate skinner, talk to board of forestry,

EFRP call Brandon Vos.

Feb 11th at ODF office, southern blues meeting.

GNA for NEPA for Uteley

Legislative session starts end of month

Talk to state legislators on necessity of getting this work done.

Local GNA = Brandon Ferguson, Cameron

6. Coming Up

- a. **Director Elections**
 - i. **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
 - a. **Fiscal sponsorship for Partner Capacity**
 - b. **Bella Vista Capacity**
 - c. **BLM recap**
- 8. **Adjourn**, Next meeting date: **Monday February 10th, 2025**

Move to adopt proposed salary with 8% across the board, with 3% IRA for Lindsay, Jeff 2nd