

South Fork John Day Watershed Council
 Meeting Minutes
 February 9, 2026
 1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

In attendance (remote attendance indicated by *) for regular session:

Board Members/Staff

Jeff Maben, Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice-Chair	*Scott Hess, Secretary	Joanne Keerins, Director
MT Anderson, Director	*Richard Nelson, Director	Jim Dovenberg, Director*	Mike Keerins, Alternate
Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC	

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

Agencies

*Jennifer Bush, USFS	Bruce Slice, USFS	Ian Bulen, ODF	*Brandon Ferguson, ODF
*Rebecca Schwartz, TU	*John Rowell, Grant Co.		

Public/Unaffiliated

*Erick Keerins		

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by Jeff Maben.

1. Public Comment

- a. None.

2. Agency Reports (5 minutes per agency)

- a. Jennifer Bush, USFS: Southern Blues Partners committee planning natural resources fair scheduled for April.
- b. Bruce Slice, USFS: There will be a meeting March 2nd to explain the process for undergoing a new biop for the forest, which affects landowners leasing from the forest who have critical habitats in their allotments. Applicant status is required to be able to be part of the ESA process. The grazing fee went up to \$1.69. Also for those with critical habitat in their allotments, some changes: they are extending the MEM from 110 to 150 meters and distance between plots increases from 2.75 to 3.75. Planning a spring rx burn on Jack Creek. The wild horse census was finished with a count of 562 confirmed horses, compared to the last count showing 600+ and then 400 gathered. This is for Murderers Ck/SF territory, not including Ochocos. Money allowing (\$1M) there will be a gather this fall.
- c. Ian Bulen, ODF: RCPP deadline is next fall. In the meantime, working on other programs (CREP, EQUIP).
- d. Brandon Ferguson, ODF: An LRP application for \$3.3M that involves the SFJDWC is due on February 12th, goes to statewide pool (\$7M) so for 10 districts there will only be 2-3 grants awarded. LSR app is in but no word on results yet. New state forester, Casey Casey (sp?), appointed by the governor and vetted by legislature, is starting in March and moving here in June.
- e. Rebecca Schwartz, TU: No updates, but would like to get in touch with Jennifer Bush re: natural resource fair.

3. Action Items

a. Staff Time Approval

Motion to Approve	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Joanne Keerins	Phil St. Clair	No	Unanimous

b. Minutes Approval

Motion to Approve	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Joanne Keerins	Phil St. Clair	No	Unanimous

c. Financials Approval

Motion to Approve	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Phil St. Clair	Richard Nelson	No	Unanimous

4. Staff Report - rescheduled for 02/09/2026

a. 2014-2026 Project Report

- i. 137 projects completed since 2013 for a total of \$10.1M.

b. 1099s Completed

c. Submitted Proposals

2026 Applications	Pending
Oregon Conservation Recreation Fund: Monitoring Strategy	25000
OR Community Foundation: Capacity	18000
OWEB TA - Rocking Nine River Design	137500
OWEB TA - Cottonwood Ck Design	84776
OWEB TA - Utley Cultural	97628
OWEB Restoration - Aldrich Forestry	169603
OWEB Restoration - Cottonwood Uplands	257127
OWEB Engagement - RCPP Engagement	59197
OWEB Sm Grant - Cottonwood Pasture Fence and Juniper	19911
Total	868742

- i.
- ii. OWEB Grant Cycle ended on the 2nd and we submitted 7 applications, accounting for half of the 15 total applications submitted. A couple were re-submitted applications that were previously recommended but fell below the funding line.

d. Trainings/Education

- i. Financial Stability in Nonprofits – Amy
- ii. GAAP and 990 Update – Amy & Lindsay
- iii. CONNECT – Hannah

e. Misc.

- i. Staff was able to take out a job shadow last week which is the second one this year.
- ii. Amy was approached by Ochoco NF to administer a fire restoration project in the Rail Ridge Fire restoration area. Figures/amounts/details still being hashed out.

5. Discussion

a. SFJDWC Annual Self-Assessment

- i. Leadership Capacity: Mission (4) Strategic Plan (3) Board Composition & Commitment (3) Board Governance (3) Board Involvement & Support (4) ED Leadership (3) ED Financial Judgment (3)
- ii. Adaptive Capacity: Strategic Planning (2) Organizational Evaluation (2) Program Relevance & Integration (2) Assessment of External Needs (3) Partnerships & Alliances (4) Community Presence (3) Community Involvement (2)

- iii. Management Capacity: Staffing Capacity (4) Dependence on ED (4) Funding Model (2) Financial Planning & Budgeting (2) Financial Operations Mgmt (3) Standard Operating Procedures (2) Volunteer Mgmt (2)
- iv. Operational Capacity: Volunteers (3) Board Involvement in Fundraising (3) Communications & Outreach (3) Website (3) Databases (2) Buildings/Office Space (4) Mgmt of Legal Matters (2)
- v. Overall Score 3.25/4

6. Coming Up

- a. 2/18: John Day Basin Partnership Full Group Virtual Meeting
- b. 3/9: LOP and Predator Discussion with ODFW District Wildlife Biologist, Ryan Torland

7. Adjourn meeting 2:46 p.m., Next meeting date: Monday, March 9th, 2026