

South Fork John Day Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2025  
1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm, by Joanne Keerins.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair
Jeff Maben, Director	Erick Keerins	*Brandon Vos, ODF	Adele Underwood, ODF
*Jennifer Bush, Malheur NF	MT Anderson, Director	*Jim Dovenberg, Director	Hannah Smith, NRCS
Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Mike Keerins, Alternate	*Greg Shafer, USFS	*Richard Nelson, Director
Scott Hess, Director			

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

**1. Public Comment**

- a. No public comment.

**2. Agency Reports (5 minutes per agency)**

- a. NRCS: Inflation Reduction Act's money is on hold. Anyone with Equip funding under IRA cannot receive payments while the freeze is in effect. General Equip funds for the basin are going to go to fire-affected landowners. Our
- b. ODF: Post-fire recovery efforts are still going strong; landowners affected should be getting a letter detailing best practices. A Community Assistance Grant is available for certain people as well. That funding is available through FSA co-op.
- c. USFS: New district ranger at the Blue Mt Ranger District, Zane Murray. Title II application for thinning in Aldrich; mitigation work ongoing in Rail Ridge Fire area; Aldrich comm site is going to be updated with power; the roundup for wild horses reached 360, with the option of an additional 50. The first 200 went to Burns, the rest to Modoc, CA.

**3. Action Items**

- a. No Staff Reimbursement Request for January

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote

- b. Staff Time

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

- c. Minutes

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
MT Anderson	Phil St. Clair	No	Passed

d. Financials

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

- e. Director Elections: Phil and Joanne's Directors' terms are up, with 1 vacant position. A motion is required to re-elect.

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Richard Nelson	MT Anderson	No	Passed

*Joanne Keerins and Phil St. Clair abstained from voting.*

f. Officer Elections: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer

- i. Chair: Jeff Maben was nominated.

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Joanne Keerins	MT Anderson	No	Passed

- ii. Vice Chair: Phil St. Clair was nominated as Vice Chair.

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Richard Nelson	MT Anderson	No	Passed

- iii. Treasurer: Scott Hess was nominated as Treasurer.

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Richard Nelson	Phil St. Clair	No	Passed

- iv. *The affected nominated members abstained from voting.*

4. Staff Report

a. Financial Planning

- i. Virtual Fence Conservation Fund \$75k, OWEB Capacity \$167k, Bella Vista Capacity \$360k, Western Big Game Initiative \$206k, OCF nursery (Hands) \$20k, USPFW Smokey Ck BDAS \$25k, totaling \$853k. Partnering applications: CWDG/CTWS 5.035M (1.8M SFJDWC), Fire TA with Monument SWCD 600k (40k SFJDWC), totaling \$5,635,000 (\$1.84M to SFJDWC).

b. Project Planning

- i. Amy shared a spreadsheet detailing the Work Plan for SFJDWC 2025-2031.

c. 2024 Funding Results

Grant Income	Grant Apps	App Results	Funds Secured
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\$630,268	38	21 Yes, 7 No, 10 Pending	\$4,593,085.
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- d. OWEB Fall Application results – OWEB is changing their grant cycles to August and February instead of April and October.
  - i. Abbott Watershed, \$157,105, ranked 4 of 11
  - ii. Bark Culverts: \$169,713, ranked 1 of 8.
- e. Martin Ck Forestry Update: Awarded in Spring 2024, burned over in Rail Ridge Fire, funding shifted to allow restoration, and aerial seeding is planned for 900 acres on February 11.
- f. 2024 Accomplishments
  - i. Amy shared a slide detailing the Council’s work during the year and highlighted several accomplishments. (Attached)
  - ii. RCPP Round 1 Round-Up: 16 Landowners, \$1.4M obligated. Despite the numerous results, due to increased prices on everything material-related, there was more work set to be done that couldn’t be completed.

**5. Discussion**

**6. Coming Up**

- a. Wednesday, February 12th, 9:00-1:00, Virtual John Day Basin Partnership Meeting
- b. Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4 PM, NRCS Local workgroup meeting
- c. American Fisheries Society Conference, Feb 26-28, Hannah attending
- d. Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:30: Forest Plan Open House

**7. Executive Session, ORS 192.660 (e): To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.**

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