

South Fork John Day Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
May 12th, 2025
1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm, by Jeff Maben.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	*Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC	*Jim Dovenberg, Director
Jeff Maben, Chair	Brent Smith, ODA	*Hannah Smith, NRCS	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair
*Richard Nelson, Director	*Adele Underwood, ODF	*Scott Hess, Director	*Josh Giles, USFS-ECRD
*Brandon Vos, ODF	*Melissa Ward, USFS-ECRD	*Jennifer Bush, USFS-MNF	*John Rowell, County Commissioner
*Justin Rodgers, USFS-ONF			

With 5 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. ODF: Put in for western state fire marshal grant for Dayville area for hazardous fuels removal. Burning ban is not in effect yet, but there have already been multiple private burns that have escaped and required ODF support, so remain vigilant and use common sense.
- b. USFS-MNF: RAC meeting was last Thursday, and the committee recommended all the Title II submitted projects from Grant/Harney counties on MNF.
- c. USFS-ONF: Funding approved for projects on burned areas from 2024 (Crazy Creek, Rail Fire); mainly fencing projects.
- d. NRCS: Working through CRP rankings.
- e. John Rowell, Grant County Court: NRAC private land sold to government: discuss at next court meeting

3. Action Items

- a. Staff Time

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

- b. Staff Reimbursement Request

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

- c. Minutes

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

d. Financials

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

4. Staff Report

- a. We are actively seeking new housing as the current office space is not sustainable due to safety concerns.
- b. Hannah attended a watershed management camp earlier this month and represented the council with a presentation.
- c. RCPP: started negotiating the agreement
- d. BLM GNA grants: unfrozen
- e. Jeff and Amy Attended senator Wyden's townhall
- f. BLM GNA grants: unfrozen
- g. Wrapping up Battle Ck and Day Ck
- h. Started SFJD uplands
- i. Started work on MC fences, amended from SFJD
- j. Awarded Abbott and Bark AOP
- k. Cultural surveys for mc phase II
- l. Applied to Charlotte Martin Foundation for post fire riparian planting
- m. BVF award
- n. Roundhouse Foundation for Smokey Ck nursery
- o. OWHF for widows ck fence tear out
- p. Western big game grant in May

5. Discussion

- a. Utley Roadless Area Treatment with Emigrant Creek Ranger District
 - i. Seeking funding for NEPA on the Utley Roadless Area. They have identified a group that can help and have partially assessed an area nearby, and are checking to see if that group can do the Utley area when they finish the current one. Additionally, federal funding might be able to be secured due to wording that allows for temporary roads to be built. Discussion was held to determine how the Council can continue to help.

6. Coming Up

- a. 5/13, Project tour with OWEB Director Sara O'Brien
- b. 5/14, JDBP full group meeting in Condon
- c. 5/21, SFJD Forestry Partnership check-in
- d. 5/22, OWEB review team completed project tour

7. Adjourn, 2:20 p.m. Next meeting date: **Monday, June 09th, 2025**