

South Fork John Day Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 9th, 2025  
1:00 pm, Izee Schoolhouse

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, by Jeff Maben.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latzo, SFJDWC	Lindsay Bullock, SFJDWC	*Jim Dovenberg, Director
Jeff Maben, Chair	Brandon Ferguson, ODF	*Hannah Smith, NRCS	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair
*Brandon Vos, ODF	Joanne Keerins, Director	*Jennifer Bush, MNF	John Rowell, County Commissioner
*Zane Murray, USFS	Richard Nelson, Director	*Eric Keerins	MT Anderson, Director

*\*Remote attendance*

With 6 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: Still working on post-fire recovery from 2024 fire season. Seasonal staff is onboarding today, and guard school starts next week. The LSR grant they applied for in Fall 2024 to gain funding on the contractor side of things was awarded priority for the upcoming approval session. LSR grant applies to state land. Fire marshal grant responses should be coming in any day now.
- b. NRCS: CSP deadline was Friday; waiting to hear who was funded. Pot of \$8M. RCPP is still up in the air regarding when money will be available. Inflation Reduction Act money should be available in 2026.
- c. USFS: Currently the Forest is severely understaffed after losing 20 employees to the federal DRP (deferred resignation program). NEPA process is changing soon, and on June 30 the new guidelines will be released. Re: Rail Ridge Area Closure: the 2150 Road and surrounding areas still need to be checked after the fire but will open upon confirmation of safety. The 070 Road (2170 to 2150 connector road) will remain closed due to timber sale. Wild Horse Update – The NEPA was signed for both the BLM and FS land, meaning the 410 horses that were trapped last year are going to be available for adoption. Another gathering is planned for the Fall of 2026, along with a pre-gathering census flight this fall. Title II proposals: PCT project north of Aldrich was not approved.

**3. Action Items**

- a. Staff Time

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Joanne Keerins	Phil St. Clair	No	Passed

- b. Staff Reimbursement Request – no requests this month

- c. Minutes

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

- d. Financials

Motioned	Seconded	Discussion?	Vote
Joanne Keerins	Richard Nelson	No	Passed

#### 4. Staff Report

##### a. Project Updates

- i. Modified ONF springs
- ii. Moving through designs and planning for Murderers Creek ph. 2, adding private land on Todd Ck
- iii. Completed SF Fire fences
- iv. Starting SFJD Uplands
- v. Secured OWHF funding for fence removal on Widows Creek
- vi. Agreements FS and Gr SWCD for Bark Culverts
- vii. Multiple Post Implementation Status Reports due this Summer
- viii. Tour of springs with BLM, prepping grant submittal with Gr SWCD
- ix. LSR phase II application for ODFW Wildlife Area bordering National Forest and Widows Creek Ranch
- x. RCPP agreement negotiations

#### 5. Executive Session, 02:07, ORS 192.660 (e): To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

#### 6. Coming Up

#### 7. Adjourn meeting, 02:39. Next meeting date: **Monday July 14th, 2025**