

DRAFT HARNEY BASIN WETLANDS INITIATIVE MEETING NOTES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 9 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: Harney County ESD Region 17, 25 Fairview Heights Loop, Burns, OR 97720

Attendees: Peter Harkema, Sophia Kim, Cody Collins, Brett Friedrichsen, Becki Graham, Mark Chowning, Chris Boyd, Brianna Goehring, Karen Moon, Jeff Mackay, Tammy Wood, Ed Contreras, Teresa Wicks, Marla Polenz, James Pearson, Edwin Sparks, Carey Goss, Alexa Martinez, Zola Ryan, Carlton Strough, Chad Karges, Chris Colson *By Phone:* Eric Hartstein, Jason Dunham, Esther Lev, Bob Sallinger, Doug Peterson?

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Objectives/Agenda and Updates

- Welcome, agenda review and introductions

- General partner updates
 - Community Based Water Planning Collaborative

3 years – watershed council has been convening this effort, currently in the building strategies to address water issue in Harney County. Next meeting is @ 3pm next Wednesday. Hope to have groundwater part of the plan by next July,

- NRCS & SWCD staffing

Still just Carlton & Zola @ NRCS, difficulty hiring due to 7 day job postings,

New district manager & Assistant are hired for SWCD (Shannon & Barbara?) still getting familiar with position &

- Malheur Refuge Staffing

Intent is to refill his position &

- Others? (Esther)

Esther will also be retiring from the Wetlands Conservancy at the end of the year & will be working with HDP to continue to work on Wet Meadows in Harney County.

ACTION ITEM: Revisit how roles change when folks retire, succession planning in the group?

9:30 – 11:00 Grant Planning

- Review, discuss, and agree on all application to be submitted during the October/November 2019 grant application cycle

OCT 21st due date for grants & Nov. 19th for TRT meeting.

Chris has grants, HDP may have a stakeholder engagement grant, Monitoring grant (action item to convene this group)

- FIP II application, including:

- o Presentation of recommendation from subgroup, including overview of strategies – *Ben Cate*
- o Question/answer and group discussion and final decision from full HBWI on whether to move forward with a second FIP application
- o If full group determines to move forward then confirm next steps, timeframe and who will be responsible for which portion of application development, including:
 - Strategic plan update
 - Monitoring framework model

ACITON ITEM: Send out the document that Jeff presented to the group

- Monitoring Plan discussion

11:00 – 12:00 HBWI Project Implementation Efforts

- Status of existing projects and grants
 - o Communications and Community Engagement – *Marla Polenz*
- o DOCENT program / PA update – *Teresa Wicks / Bob Sallinger*

Dam project articles,

Offered bird walks on MNWR & Nature Trail for 3 months. Hosted 12 walks. Created a community science project (hasn't been as participatory as we had hoped), but looking into strategies to gain involvement. Gave a talk to Umpqua Audubon about our work in Harney County, another talk upcoming in Portland.

- o Wet Meadows Surveys & Landowner Conversations – *Esther Lev*

Esther Lev gone from

12-00 -1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 HBWI Project Implementation Efforts (continued)

- Status of existing projects and grants
 - o Ecosystem Model updates – *James Pearson*

Ecosystem Model, not a ton of work done since the field season. Wind resuspension stuff is getting better. Increasing resolution of potential restoration options for Malheur Lake.

- o Summer Field Work
 - o Nutrient Analysis of Malheur Lake – *James Pearson / Ben Cate*

Collecting Nutrient samples on Malheur Lake from April – August.

Data sondes are collecting data from April – Ice over. There has been continuous sampling throughout the summer.

Nutrient project is trying to get an idea of what is coming into the lake from the tribs. (silvies & blitzen)

- o Fishes of the Harney Basin Revisited update – *Mark Chowning / Ben Cate*

- o Windmill Pond Carp Biomass Threshold project – *James Pearson*

Been a large effort over the summer to get this off the ground, thanks to everyone, don't have a lot of preliminary results at this point.

Off-hand observations – lots of water this year & overall the turbidity has stayed quite low, lots of aquatic veg compared to other years, very basic water (ph above 10), still lots of data to be collected,

Q: wondering if you tested the PH water prior to pumping water into the pond?

A: ph would likely be tied to strong photosynthesis, saturated DO levels in the pond.

Gradient of conductivity & PH in the pond from one side to the other.

- o Flood-Irrigation Infrastructure Upgrades and Replacements – *Chris Colson*

Moving to roughened surface & natural diversion dams, provides fish passage, etc.

Q: (Chad) How are we using the lidar?

A: Chris, we're using it for design of dams, etc... we're using it for some priority setting. It is such a large file that it is hard to get on the computer of someone normal.

2:00 - 3:00 Site visit to Tyler 1 Diversion structure – *Chris Colson*

3:15 - 3:30 Wrap Up and Next Steps – Establish next meeting dates, etc.

3:30 Adjourn

ACTION ITEMS: Review of operating principles, Updated outcomes (BEN),

Ed, Chad, Esther, Teresa, Ben, Zola,