**Minutes**

**Crook County Natural Resources Committee**

**March 3, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:** Bill McCormack, Frank Porfily, Mike Lunn, Lynne Breese, Calista Songstad, Tim Deboodt, Melinda Kestler, Andy Gallagher, Kim Vogel

**Members Absent:**  Steve McGuire, Casey Kaiser,

**Public Present:** Justin Alderman (Prineville Review)

**Meeting was called to order** at Noon by Vice-Chair Lynne Breese

Lynne called the zoom meeting to order and conducted a roll call, 8 members of the committee were present via zoom.

Agenda item: Review applications for Committee appointment

Tim reviewed the process for reviewing and making a recommendation for the Board of Commissioners to fill the 1 vacant position. The County forwarded two applications to the Committee for review. Cliff Kiser, term expired 12/24 and seeking reappointment, and MiKayla Mills, Crook County resident, former FS employee and interested in being an active participant on the Committee.

Frank made a motion to recommend Cliff Kiser for appointment to the County’s Natural Resources Advisory Committee. A 4 year term to expire on 12/31/2028. Bill seconded.

Discussion:

Strengths and weaknesses of each application were discussed.

Cliff’s strengths were his active participation on the Committee since its creation. Cliff was active in writing the County’s Natural Resource Policy in 2017. Cliff has a breadth of knowledge and experience on natural resource issues within the County. Cliff has been an active participate on sub-committee work, volunteering almost every time. Cliff was described as highly qualified.

MiKayla’s strengths were that with her, a younger generation of natural resources users and concerns would be a voice on the Committee. Her experience with the Forest Service and her connections would add strength to the Committee’s conversations and hopefully open avenues for more conversations directly with the FS. Mikayla has a strong connection to the community, and had 2 very good letters of recommendations. Mikayla has a good background in range management and public agency work that is not currently represented on the Committee.

Prior to voting, Melinda disclosed that she is involved in an organization with current litigation work against the FS in regards to wild horse management. She wanted to disclose that because when MiKayla was working for the FS, she was involved in the writing of the wild horse management plan and the 2 letters of recommendation came from people also involved in that work (now both no longer with the FS).

The vote for recommending Cliff Kiser to fill the vacant position was:

Frank yes

Bill yes

Kim yes

Mike yes

Calista yes

Melinda yes

Andy yes

Lynne yes

No no votes, no abstentions

Motion carried.

The group suggested that for the next, regular meeting of the Committee, that expanding membership (more positions) of the Committee be added to the agenda.

Mike moved to adjourn, Kim seconded. Vote taken

Melinda yes

Bill yes

Kim yes

Mike yes

Calista yes

Andy yes

Lynne yes

No no votes, no abstentions

Meeting adjourned 12:30 p.m.