

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
June 26, 2012 – 5:00 p.m.  
Wallowa Community Center, Wallowa OR**

Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Introductions followed.

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:** Larry Cribbs moved to approve the April 24, 2012, meeting minutes; Ted Taylor seconded and the motion carried. The proposed meeting agenda for June 26, 2012, meeting was approved (attachments to file).

**Calendar/Announcements:**

Calendars for June, July and August were provided (attachment to file). Steve McClure reported that he was contacted by the Hazard Waste Group (Union, Wallowa and Baker Counties) regarding a farm pesticide roundup day on October 15-17, 2012. This is an opportunity for the farm community to dispose of unwanted pesticides. He indicated that he has been visiting with different agencies such as the Union Soil and Water Conservation District, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed seeking donations for the cleanup. If they raise enough funds, the cost to dispose of the pesticides will be little to no cost. Jeff Oveson stated that GRMW will be giving a donation.

**Old Business:**

**Introduction of Summer Intern:** Lacey Moore introduced herself. She indicated that she graduated from Cove High School in 2007 and from Oregon State University (OSU) last year in Environmental Economics and Policy and has an interest in water conservation and efficiency that relates to irrigation. She is currently working on receiving a GIS Certificate from OSU. Her primary work this summer with GRMW will be GIS related, helping develop geo-referenced data layers that will support project prioritization methodology.

**Introduction of FFA Student Board Member and Alternate:** Mikayla Frei indicated that she is the FFA President for 2012-2013 at Wallowa High School. She will be a senior this coming school year. Her Ag teacher told her about this opportunity to sit on the GRMW Board. The FFA students interested in this opportunity wrote up an essay about their interest in serving on the Board. She was chosen by the FFA advisors as the GRMW Board Member. Emily Spang introduced herself. Emily will be a junior at Wallowa High School this coming school year. She will serve as Mikayla's alternate on the GRMW Board.

**Update on EOU/OSU Student Board Members:** Leigh Collins stated that there were two students interested in the EOU GRMW Board position. Provided in the Board packets were two letters from the interested students, Troy Abercrombie and Trenton

Manns, both upcoming seniors (attachments to file). She said that staff would like to recommend Troy because of his volunteer outreach work and he provided good references such as Tim Del Curto with the Union Experiment Station. Dave Yost moved to appoint Troy Abercrombie to the Board, and Daryl Hawes seconded and the motion carried. This school year, Leigh and Jeff will continue their search for a junior to fill in as Troy's alternate.

**Recovery Planning:** Jeff Oveson indicated that Rosemary Furfey, NOAA, would like comments on the redlined version of the latest draft of the plan. If the Board would like to review the redlined version and get their comments to Jeff over the next few days, he will pass on those comments to Rosemary.

#### **New Business:**

**BPA Fish & Wildlife Budget Letter from Bill Maslan:** A letter from Bill Maslan, BPA, was electronically sent out to the Board and also was provided in the Board packets (attachment to file). BPA is experiencing budget challenges, due to the low wholesale prices of natural gas which have depressed the price of wholesale power which in turn reduced BPA's revenues from sales of surplus power. GRMW is working on making their project costs more efficient and putting low priority projects on hold for a year or two. For the Grande Ronde Basin, BPA will be focusing on the high priority areas of Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde River. The Board asked Jeff to respond to the letter. Jeff Oveson stated since GRMW's Wallowa County projects would not have BPA funding according to BPA's focus on the high priority areas, he spoke with BPA about funding for the Wallowa County side of the basin. BPA did verbally offer \$300,000 a year in funds for projects on the Wallowa County side. Coby Menton will be working on finding matching funds for the Wallowa County side projects.

**Staff Report:** A written staff report was provided in the Board packets (attachment to file).

**Project Proposal – Devil's Run & Chesnimnus Watergaps:** Jeff Oveson reported that this project proposal was up for review but Wallowa Valley Ranger District has not submitted their revised project proposal. The Tech Team did hold a site visit and provided comments/suggestions to the applicant. Board and staff discussed the concerns regarding this project.

**BiOp Expert Panel Meetings:** Jeff went over the BiOp Expert Panel meetings that were held on June 18th-20th that was mentioned in the written staff report. He showed a map of the Upper Grande Ronde Subbasin that had the Snake River Steelhead Population Assessment Units and Limiting Factors.

**Project Update:** Jeff Oveson covered the following projects in the written staff report: Catherine Creek Baum Habitat Restoration, the Idaho Power Company Project B2H, the Catherine Creek ASR Feasibility Study and the Upper Grande Ronde ASR Feasibility Study. Coby Menton spoke on the following projects: Wallowa River/Cross Country

Canal, Trout Creek Alpine Meadows, Summit Creek Diversion, Lostine River Diversion Structure and the Wallowa River 6 Ranch Phase II. Other projects in the written staff report were: Catherine Creek Boyd Habitat Restoration and the Grande Ronde Greenway.

Mason Bailie provided an updated Project Status Report (PSR) (attachment to file). He made it easier to read. The Board can access the project information on the website. The Board really likes the work that Mason has done on the website. Mason indicated that Lacey Moore will be assisting him with the GIS work. They have historic photos from the University of Oregon on some of Jesse Steele's projects that will help with the GIS work.

**Public Participation:** Norm Cimon introduced Nathan Black with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. on Adams Avenue in La Grande.

**Next Board Meeting and 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration:** The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on August 28, 2012, at the Riverside Park Pavilion in La Grande at 4:00 p.m. Following the Board meeting will be GRMW's 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration starting at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions or comments, please call (541) 663-0570 or write GRMW, 1114 "J" Avenue, La Grande OR 97850. To reach us on our website go to <http://www.grmw.org>. The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

The mission of the Board of Directors' of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed is "to develop and oversee the implementation, maintenance and monitoring of coordinated resource management that will enhance the natural resources of the Grande Ronde River Basin."

**Board Meeting Attendance:**

**Board Members/Alternates:** Mike Hayward, Steve McClure, Larry Nall, Laura Mahrt, Ted Taylor, Daryl Hawes, Dave Yost, Mikayla Frei, Katie Frenyea, Emily Spang, Larry Cribbs, and Norm Cimon.

**Others:** Karen Leiendecker and Nathan Black.

**Staff:** Jeff Oveson, Coby Menton, Lacey Moore, Leigh Collins, Mason Bailie and Mary Estes.