

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
January 28, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.
Wallowa Community Center – Wallowa OR**

Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

Daryl Hawes moved to approve the October, 2013 meeting minutes and the December , 2013, planning session minutes; Nick Myatt seconded and the motion carried (attachment to file). No changes were made to the revised agenda.

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for January, February, and March were provided (attachment to file).

Review of Project Proposals:

Lyle Kuchenbecker briefly discussed each of the projects and staff recommendations which were earlier mailed to the Board.

Catherine Creek 44 Phase II (CC44): Is a multiphase (4 total) project that will continue through 2017. Today the board will vote on just phase II. This project involves six landowners within a high priority reach of Catherine Creek. Kuchenbecker pointed out some of the changes in budget to reduce cost for phase II. The cost of each of the projects is shown in an excel spread sheet (attached to file). Staff recommended funding phase II of this project with the knowledge that the pipeline and diversion structure portions of the project are uncertain until a letter of consent to injury is completed by ODFW.

Nick Myatt asked for more details about the conservation easements for this project and which organization those easements would administer the easements. Katie Frenya answered that it will be different for each landowner and that all the easements are not in place yet, but that each landowner has agreed to protect the project areas and easements will be completed with further phases.

Upper Grande River Small Wood and Plant Protection Project: This project is located in the same area as the previously completed mine tailings project above the Upper Grande Ronde Large Wood Project. There were some recommended changes by the Tech Team. The initial proposal included using steel cages to protect plants and end-dumping woody debris to add diversity to previously constructed large wood structures. The Tech Team recommended using conifer "skeleton" slash to protect deciduous plantings and physically inserting woody debris (racking) into the large wood structures. This project is located in a high priority reach and staff recommended to fund this project. Oveson pointed out that this project is a scalable project and later in the year if the GRMW has extra funds in its budget more could be added to this project to include more sites.

Myatt asked about where the woody debris will come from for this project. Aric Johnson said the wood is already being cleared from FS roads, but there is not quite enough so there is a some cost associated with cutting more small woody material further away from the project and transporting it to the project site.

Allen Childs asked about the amount of staffing for this project and that it looked as though it was a little high.

Mike Hayward said a note would be made about staffing costs and no one was clear on if the staffing was reduced when the proposal was altered by the Tech Team.

Beaver Creek Dam Fish Passage: This is a proposal to restore passage by Beaver Creek dam and five other structures on smaller tributaries. Kuchenbecker mentioned that Tim Bailey feels it is a high priority due to the amount of high quality habitat above the dam. This project was not recommended for funding at this time because the City of La Grande did not acquire cost share for the project. This project is rated as a high priority project.

Rock Creek: This project ranked fourth and is in an area that would benefit from better grazing management. This project includes several restoration activities including riparian fencing, levee removal, large wood and boulder additions, reactivation of side channels, riparian planting and negotiation of conservation easements. The Tech Team recommended the project for funding with some modification to the design on the lower end. Childs mentioned the lower 1.5 miles of this section will be included in a future project instead of including it in this project for 2014.

Meadow Creek Phase III: The project proposes to develop upland livestock water sources and is a continuation of Phases I & II which have previously received substantial support and BPA funding. The Tech Team recommend funding the water developments to fully realize benefits of previously completed restoration activities and on-going riparian and grazing research.

Johnson also mentioned that the study at Starkey has been recognized nationally and will provide a lot of scientific data for future restoration. This is the last phase.

Chicken Creek: The initial proposal called for the placement of large wood, planting and the protection of plantings with cages similar to what was proposed on the upper Grande Ronde project. The Technical committee did not support the steel cages and recommended wood placement similar to the upper Grande Ronde project. The Technical Committee also recommended downsizing the size of the wood more in line with what would naturally occur in this area. Benefits will be mostly to steelhead, but there will be some benefits to juvenile Chinook salmon and possibly bull trout. Johnson mentioned most of the large wood was lost in the 70's because of the bark beetles.

Corral Creek: The project proposes to decommission a draw-bottom road, construct a replacement road up slope of the riparian area, add woody debris to Corral Creek, plant riparian areas and construct 4 miles of fence to restrict livestock grazing from several miles of headwater tributaries to the South Fork of Catherine Creek. The Forest Service is funding the majority of the work. BPA funding is requested for the fence. Staff Recommended not funding at this time because it is only a medium rated project and the 2014 funding is limited. Myatt asked why the extra funds were not being used on this project. Kuchenbecker said this was because the budget of the previously recommended projects budgets are not final and we want to have some extra money left over in order to provide more money to higher priority projects that may require more funds.

5 Points Creek: The Technical Committee recognized that Five Points Creek is a high priority for restoration and that the proposed work could be the beginning of comprehensive restoration work in this watershed. A diversion structure obstructing fish passage at the lower end of the project area was proposed for a future phase of the project. The Technical Committee felt that the diversion structure needs to be removed before the habitat work is done and that the FS should proceed with planning the removal of the structure as well as more comprehensive habitat restoration activities.

Staff recommendation is to resubmit a proposal for 2015 which includes removal of the diversion structure as well as a beginning phase of the habitat restoration work.

Wallowa River 6 Ranch II: Coby Menton talked about the Wallowa River 6 Ranch project. Menton said the project was approved in 2012 but subsequent review by biologists resulted in a much larger scale and a better project. The project changed from one meander to three meanders and more large wood was placed in stream. The modifications to the project increased cost another \$120,000. Staff recommended the additional funding request.

HWY 203: The project was technically reviewed and approved for funding by the GRMW Board in the fall of 2012. Construction of the new bridge will enable the connection of all restored channels of the 2010 Ladd Rechannel Project. A construction contract was advertised and bids received in August 2013. BPA and OWEB funds were not sufficient to award the contract. BPA is supportive of committing an additional \$100K if needed to award the contract and complete the project in 2014.

Staff recommended that an additional \$100K, if needed, be funded. CTUIR and OWEB funds already committed to the project are to be used first.

Wallowa River/Baker Project, ODFW: The request is for technical assistance to provide engineering designs and cultural resource work for an upcoming project. Allen Childs suggested that the cost for cultural resource work seems high.

Hayward asked if there was any way to expand this project to address the County-owned dike immediately adjacent to the project area, and suggested if that was possible Wallowa County could also support this project.

Kuchenbecker went over the budget for the year 2014 and how much money is available and where the staff and Tech Team recommend that money should be spent. (See attachment).

Daryl Hawes motioned for the projects to be funded as the staff presented. Norm Cimon seconded and the motion carried.

Continuing Discussions: The following items were also mentioned in the written staff report (attachment to file).

OWEB Council Support: Jeff Oveson showed the Work Plan staff created for OWEB and how to access it online. This work plan was created for council support funding and now is an online document. OWEB was not looking for a long detailed Work Plan, but more of an overview of what the GRMW has accomplished. This is for the 2013-2015 biennium. Oveson then explained the council support system and work plan the GRMW created and submitted, but the Board needs to approve the work plan for it to be official.

Larry Nall moved to approve the new format for the Work Plan, Ted Taylor seconded and the motion carried.

Position Descriptions: (see attached) Jeff quickly covered each of the staffs position descriptions and said these may change in the future, but they are a good step forward.

Staff Report: A written staff report was provided (attachment to file). The staff present at the meeting discussed what they were working on as of late.

Hayward then addressed the Board and told them of Bill Howells plans to step down from Board of Directors and presented him with a Knife inscribed with the GRMW logo. Howell then said a few words about his interaction with the GRMW and how much it has meant to him. Bill was a charter member of the GRMW Board .

Public Participation: None.

Next Board Meeting: The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on February 25, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. at the Elgin Community Center. 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 7:00 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."

Meeting Attendance:

Board Members and Alternates: Ted Taylor, Norm Cimon, Daryl Hawes, Bill Howell, Katie Frenyea, Mike Hayward, Allen Childs, Nick Myatt, Larry Nall, Larry Cribbs, and Joe McCormack .

Others: Bill Gamble, Aric Johnson, Julia Lakes, Timmie Mandish, and Emmit Taylor Jr.

Staff: Jeff Oveson, Coby Menton, Leigh Collins, Lacey Moore, and Lyle Kuchenbecker.