

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW)  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
June 23, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.  
Wallowa Community Center – Wallowa OR**

**Approval of minutes and agenda:** Ted Taylor brought the meeting to order shortly after 5:00 p.m. Introductions followed. Larry Nall found a spelling error in the April 28, 2015, meeting minutes on the Cunha Ranch update on page 4 second paragraph. The correction is the word refuge instead of refugee. Dave Yost moved to approve the April 28, 2015, meeting minutes with the correction of the misspelled word; Larry Nall seconded, and the motion carried. The proposed agenda was amended by adding an editorial comment discussion under Staff Report (attachments to file). Larry Nall moved to approve the Board meeting agenda with the addition, Dave Yost seconded, and the motion carried.

**Calendar and Announcements:** Calendars for June, July and August were provided (attachment to file). On June 25<sup>th</sup> is the CC44 Fish Salvage Meeting. Starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>, they will hold the CC44 Fish Salvage. The Implementation Team Meetings for July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> have been cancelled. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Jesse Steele will attend the Snake River 5-year Status Review Meeting instead of Jeff Oveson. Norm Cimon mentioned that the Oregon Rural Action is hosting the SolWest Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair at the Union County Fairgrounds on June 26<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup>. Dave Yost asked about the 6 Ranch Fish Salvage and if there was an opportunity to have students help. He was directed to get a hold of Coby Menton.

**Update on the Catherine Creek Atlas and the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas:** There was a written update provided (attachment to file). Jeff Oveson went over the information provided in the handout. For Catherine Creek, the implementation team has selected eight project opportunities from the atlas and assigned opportunity leads. They are waiting for the final maps on Catherine Creek from BPA and Cardno. The implementation guidelines have been adopted. For the Upper Grande Ronde, they have finished up the Science TAC meetings. The Science TAC subgroup met in May on the BSR ranking and action scores. A subgroup will start working on the mapping efforts for the Upper Grande Ronde on July 8<sup>th</sup>. There will need to be a few corrections made to the stepwise process so it will fit in with the implementation guidelines.

**Update on OWEB FIP:** Provided in the Board packets was a written update; a letter of participation to OWEB; and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GRMW, ODFW, CTUIR, USWCD, and the USFS La Grande Ranger District (attachments to file). Jeff Oveson stated that they had all the signatures except GRMW's signature on the letter and MOU. The letter and MOU need to be sent with the FIP application that is due in Salem on July 1, 2015. Larry Cribbs asked about the outreach on page 2 under the Board's Roles and Responsibilities of the MOU. Jeff indicated that he will figure out the outreach and it will probably be working with the Union Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD) with OWEB funds. Jeff asked if Ted Taylor could sign on behalf of the chair on the letter and MOU. Dave Yost moved to approve the letter and MOU and to substitute Mike Hayward with Ted Taylor as vice-chair, Allen Childs seconded, and the motion carried with one abstaining vote from Jack Howard.

Jeff mentioned that a BOR tech writer stated that the subbasin plan with updates and additional components that are required from OWEB will work as the draft strategic action plan needed for the FIP. The plan is under review by the core partners. The core partners will be looking at potential projects

and the budget at their next meeting. OWEB will contact applicants in August about moving to the second phase of the process. Jeff believes that OWEB would like to have one FIP in each of their six regions.

Jack Howard will be serving as the Union County Board of Commissioners representative on the GRMW Board. He and the rest of the Board introduced each other upon his arrival at the meeting.

#### **Partners' Reports:**

**End Creek:** Nick Myatt, ODFW, updated the group on the 2006 End Creek project. Nick, Allen Childs, and Katie Frenyea spoke about this project at the April meeting. Nick indicated that the regulatory agencies: DSL, NRCS, NMFS and others involved with the project have been discussing the issues at hand. The Oregon DSL enforcement Wetland Fill and Removal Violation folks issued notices to the landowners involved. NRCS is involved with the issues of the drainage of the wetlands and NMFS law enforcement is involved on the ESA take issues.

**CC44:** Katie Frenyea stated that **CC44 Smith** is going well. The instream work window starts next week. Most of the out-of-channel work is done. They are installing the rock weirs and the bypass channels. Anderson Perry and Associates are helping out with the stakeout issues. They have received an official letter, recommendations and rules from NOAA. OWEB project applications were submitted.

**Lookingglass Ceremony:** Allen Childs stated that they have been working with a family on Lookingglass Creek in purchasing their land for some time now. CTUIR was contacted in February by the family willing to sell the land at Federal Appraised Value. This was a great opportunity for the tribe to purchase the land. The tribes will be using other funding sources to secure the property with the intent to transfer under a BPA conservation easement. The sale closed in early June. The land is above Forest Service Road 62 outside of Elgin. There will be a ceremony for the purchase of the land on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 10-12, everyone is invited to attend.

**CC44 Southern Cross:** Allen Childs mentioned that construction will begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The project should be completed between October and December of 2015 and will be activated in 2016. The planning team in the past isolated individual work sites which was complicated and resource damaging; they believe it will be a better approach to work with larger sections of the river by temporarily diverting the water into another channel while they work in dry conditions.

**CTUIR:** Allen reported that The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) are re-introducing the adult Lamprey into the Grande Ronde.

**Wallowa River Baker Project:** Nick Myatt indicated that they will not be receiving the OWEB funds for this project due to the large price tag. They are in the process of talking with GRMW and looking at other ways to keep this project moving forward. Jeff stated that Brett Moore with Anderson Perry and Associates suggested downsizing the project or having several phases.

**Fishing Regulations Simplification Process:** Nick Myatt stated that ODFW has been going through this process internally now for about a year. The salmon and steelhead regulations are complicated because of the ESA listing and will remain complicated. The trout fisheries and the warm water fisheries regulations are complicated as well. Currently, there are 37 different trout seasons in the state for hatchery trout. Examples of simplifying: ODFW will be proposing 1 of 3 seasons for trout and bass will

only have one regulation statewide. There will be a series of public meetings. The public meeting in La Grande will be held the evening of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Nick will email Jeff the information.

#### **Staff Report:**

***BPA Accountability Report:*** BPA asked that GRMW staff provide them with monthly accountability reports. Provided in the Board packets was the monthly report for May (attachment to file). BPA did indicate that they were impressed by the report. John Skidmore, BPA, might be at the August Board meeting and BBQ.

***Editorial Comment in the Wallowa County Chieftain:*** Dave Yost reported that he had been hearing concerns about the restoration project on the 6 Ranch, mostly related to the investment of public funds on private land. The 6 Ranch project is visible from Highway 82 so people driving by see the stock pile of materials and the equipment involved. Some speculation as to what was going on arose from the visibility of the project. Dave stated that folks need to understand why restoration projects are taking place. Jeff Oveson drafted an editorial for the Wallowa County Chieftain and asked the Board to review and approve it (attachment to file). There were several comments and suggestions. Larry Nall moved to approve the concept of the letter, Norm Cimon seconded. There was more discussion. Dave Yost moved to amend the motion by approving a rewrite of the letter based upon the discussion, Jack Howard seconded, and the motion carried. Jeff and Lacey will make some changes to the editorial and submit it to the Wallowa County Chieftain to be published in their next week's newspaper.

**Public Participation:** No public in attendance.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in Elgin in the Elgin Community Center's Pavilion. A BBQ will follow the meeting. 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 electronically, visit <http://www.grmw.org>. The mission of the Board of Directors' of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program 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." The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

#### **Meeting Attendance:**

**Board Members/Alternates:** Ted Taylor, Joe McCormack, Norm Cimon, Nick Myatt, Katie Frenyea, Allen Childs, Larry Nall, Dave Yost, Jed Hassinger, Larry Cribbs and Jack Howard.

**Staff Members:** Jeff Oveson, Lacey Moore and Mary Estes.