

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW)  
Board of Directors' Meeting & Annual BBQ  
August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.  
Elgin Community Center Pavilion | Elgin Oregon**

Board Chair Mike Hayward called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. 16 Board members, alternates and staff were present, and 12 guests were in attendance. Introductions followed.

**Approval of minutes and agenda:**

Larry Cribbs moved to approve the minutes from the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 meeting as sent out, Larry Nall seconded, and the motion carried. Jed Hassinger moved to approve the Agenda as presented, Larry Cribbs seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Calendar and Announcements:** Calendars for August through October were provided (attachment to file). No additions were made to the calendars.

**Update on the Catherine Creek Atlas and the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas:**

Jesse Steele announced that the Catherine Creek Atlas is complete, and the Atlas has been used at two Implementation Team (IT) meetings in May and June. The next IT meeting is September 17<sup>th</sup>. Opportunity leads have been assigned for the top 7-8 projects as identified by the Atlas. Lacey Moore stated that the Catherine Creek Outreach Plan has been revised and will be discussed at the next IT meeting. The detailed maps for the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas are scheduled to be finished at the end up September. Mason Bailie informed the Board that the scoring and tracking of Atlas projects is being converted from excel spreadsheets to a website/database format. This website can be accessed by partners, plus revisions and comments can be tracked and stored. The estimated timeline for finishing this project is 12 weeks. Nick Myatt inquired about what the 'final product' of the Catherine Creek Atlas looked like, or wondered if a final report was being written? Jesse Steele answered that the project delineation tools, including the activity sheets and project opportunity maps along with the guidelines are essentially the final product. Steele was unsure if BPA was going to issue a final summary report.

**Proposal Review, ODFW Fence Material (Action Item):**

Coby Menton briefed the group on this project, which is a fencing proposal along Crow Creek in the Upper Joseph Creek watershed of Wallowa County. Technical team comments are supportive of the project actions; contingent on securing a 15-year riparian easement with the landowner, prior to the project implementation. This project is along a steelhead bearing stream and includes both livestock exclusion and riparian fencing components. The BPA funding request is for \$54,349 in materials, and OWEB is being solicited for \$58,291 in services. Construction is scheduled for field season (May-October) of 2016. Cultural resource permitting is required for fence construction and expected to be completed through BPA resources. The staff recommendation is to fund as presented, contingent on the aforementioned easement being secured prior to construction. Dave Yost moved to approve the project as recommended by staff, Larry Cribbs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**OWEB Focused Investment Program Update:**

Jeff informed the Board that the Focused Investment Program (FIP) Phase I application for the Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership was accepted by OWEB, and that the partnership was invited to submit a Phase II application. Nine out of twelve proposals were invited to submit during the second phase, and three of those nine had stipulations. Jeff reviewed for the Board the critiques submitted by OWEB (attachment to file). Les Naylor of CTUIR countered the criticism of monitoring methods in our basin, saying CTUIR and ODFW have already begun using PHAMS reach scale monitoring in addition to CHaMP. Phase II applications are due on November 2.

**Partner Reports:**

Karen Leiendecker, OWEB: 25 restoration projects that were submitted for OWEB's Region Five. Of those 25, fifteen were recommended for funding, four of which are in the Grande Ronde Basin. There were also two Technical Assistance proposals in the Grande Ronde Basin which were recommended for funding. The OWEB Board meeting will meet the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of October in John Day.

Katie Frenyea, USWCD: CC44 Phase III is complete other than the seeding and the planting, which is likely to take place in October or later. All of the structures are complete and some have been revamped from their original design, after post construction reviews. The bid for Phase III, Part 2 (Southern Cross) goes out tomorrow, with the BOR walk through taking place on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The District has about six small grants they will be working on for fall submission deadlines.

Mitch Daniel, Nez Perce Tribe: The NPT has applied for Snake River Salmon Recovery Board funds for their Beaver Creek Barrier Fish passage project, Jeff Oveson and Coby Menton signed as partners on this Design Funding proposal. The Sheep Ridge Fish Passage Improvement has a statement of work and will be implemented next year. The Tulley Hill Fish passage project was recommended for design funding from OWEB. The Westside Polley Allen Ditch Consolidation Coordination Project is building on a 2009 study from BOR to consolidate two different ditches for the purpose of keeping more water in the Lostine River. The study was reinitiated by funding from the Washington Department of Ecology to try to find some cost savings from the original BOR estimates. Anderson Perry is taking the lead on the ditch consolidation project. Several divisions of the NPT collaborated to organize a 'fish flush' in which many landowners along the Lostine River turned off water use for a day, to encourage the migration of fish out into lower systems. This effort was moderately successful and a press release on the flush will go out soon.

John Skidmore, BPA: John Skidmore conveyed a message of appreciation to GRMW for Atlas efforts over the last two years from Tracy Hauser and Dave Kaplowe of BPA. Skidmore touched on the Wallowa/Baker project and the previously allocated money for the Wallowa County budget for 2015. John iterated that the difference from the

Wallowa/Baker project cancellation and the additional Crow creek fencing project, of approximately \$100K will be deferred to next year and is not lost. Bill Maslen also expressed a message of appreciation concerning the Atlas process, his desire to improve communications in the future, and encouragement continue to produce high quality restoration projects.

Discussion followed on the design, cost and other concerns from BPA and OWEB on the Wallowa Baker project.

#### **Project Updates:**

6 Ranch II: Coby Menton updated the Board; the project is about 75% complete. (Photo point progress attachment to file.) Coby also recognized the McAlister/Nash family as being wonderful to work with. Chas Hutchins was the primary engineer on the project.

Catherine Creek/Hall Ranch: ODFW is the Opportunity Lead, Jesse Steele is helping coordinate in the initial stages before handing the project off to the ODFW's habitat program. OSU's river engineering class performed the initial survey work, pebble counts, and riparian vegetation surveys to kick off the project. There is a gap between what survey work has been done and the 30% design needed for a project prospectus for ODFW. GRMW will be seeking out a source of funding to bridge this gap.

Upper Grande Ronde Bird Track Springs: This project has been delayed, in large part to cultural resources. Cardno is the engineer for the project. Fifteen percent design is scheduled for February of 2016.

Five Points/Chicken Creek/Meadow Creek: Project will start after fire season. Items taking place this fall include tree removal, barrier removal, structure construction, and flying in wood. Chicken Creek is completed, including planting protection. Meadow Creek's springs are currently being developed as part of Phase III.

#### **Staff Report:**

GRMW Activity Logs were presented (attachment to file).

#### **Public Participation:**

There was no public participation.

Mike Hayward discussed the Troy fire, and later recovery efforts, wondering if the sedimentation from ash is something the Board should be concerned about? Discussion followed about the challenges which will face riparian restoration in the future in the face of climate change.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in Wallowa at the Wallowa 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 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:** John Skidmore, Bill Maslen, Mark Lacy, Leslie Naylor, Colleen Fagan, Jordan Noyes, Chas Hutchins, Kyle Stangel, Benji Johnson, Mitch Daniel, Montana Pagano, Karen Leiendecker.

**Board Members/Alternates:** Ted Taylor, Norm Cimon, Nick Myatt, Katie Frenyea, Larry Nall, Dave Yost, Jed Hassinger, Larry Cribbs, Jack Howard, Jim Lauman, Mike Hayward.

**Staff Members:** Jeff Oveson, Lacey Moore, Coby Menton, Mason Bailie, Jesse Steele.