

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed  
Board of Directors' Annual Planning Session  
Cove Ascension Kimsey Commons  
December 2, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Cove OR**

**Greetings and Introductions:** Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order. Introductions followed. Mike reported that due to bad weather, flights are unable to enter La Grande leaving Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) staff: Bill Maslen, John Skidmore, Tracy Hauser, Sean Welch, and David Kaplowe along with Karl Weist, Northwest Power Conservation Council (NPCC) unable to attend the planning session. The meeting agenda was modified right before the meeting (attachment to file).

**GRMW Board Officer Elections:** Within the GRMW Foundation Bylaws, it states that at the Board's Annual Meeting there will be officer elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. Ted Taylor nominated Mike Hayward for Chair, Larry Cribbs seconded, and the motion carried. Nick Myatt nominated Ted Taylor for Vice Chair, Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried.

**Stepwise Proposal Review:** Provided in the Board packets was the technical committee project review comments and recommendations along with a spreadsheet on the five projects (attachments to file). Lyle Kuchenbecker went over the following projects:

***CC 44 Stream and Fish Habitat Restoration Phase III Project:*** The applicant is the Union Soil and Water Conservation District. Katie Frenyea was available to answer questions. The project objectives are to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase by adding 1.2 river miles, protect and enhance spawning, rearing, and migration habitat, address limiting factors, and to complete floodplain and instream work. The technical committee rated this project high. The recommended funding is \$2,052,924. Katie stated that they are seeking cost share funding from three different funding sources. Norm Cimon mentioned that he is interested in monitoring and would like to work towards continuous remote sensing technology on projects. Katie indicated that the District will be hiring more staff and will be able to monitor projects. The CTUIR and CHaMP personnel will be doing the on-the-ground monitoring. Larry Cribbs moved to approve the project, Ted Taylor seconded, and the motion carried.

***Five Points Creek Large Woody Debris and Planting Project:*** The applicant is the La Grande Ranger District. Joe Platz and Bill Gamble were available to answer questions. This project proposal was brought to the GRMW a year ago; and at that time, Joe was asked to develop a more comprehensive project and submit a proposal reflecting the revised project. The project objectives are to improve fish passage, riparian and wetland diversity, floodplain function, water capture, storage and to increase quantity and quality of pools, fish cover, habitat complexity, forage availability, residual pool depth, number of large and medium pieces of large woody debris in the stream, and spawning gravel recruitment. The technical committee rated this project high. There were a few concerns. Dave Yost was concerned about paying \$130,000 for USFS wages. Norm Cimon said he would like to have more intense monitoring on projects. Nick Myatt was concerned about being able to restrict the ATVs that access the river from the Camp 1 area. There will be large wood and boulders placed below Camp 1 to help restrict access. Camp 1 is an archeological site and most of the project will be constructed within an active grazing permit. The recommended funding for phase I in 2015 is \$226,072 for removal of the diversion, and acquiring and stockpiling wood at the staging areas; phase II in 2016 is \$441,030 for flying in large wood; and phase III in 2017 is \$130,430. Lyle asked that the Board act on all three phases. Allen Childs moved to approve phases I, II, and III; Larry Cribbs seconded, and the motion carried.

**Rock Creek Restoration and Enhancement III Project:** The applicant is the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Allen Childs was available to answer questions. The project objectives are to protect habitat, enhance riparian habitat, enhance instream structural diversity, complexity and geomorphic stability, reduce streambank erosion, and decrease peak summer stream temperatures. The technical committee rated this project high. Phase 1 was done in the headwaters and phase II is in the process of being completed on the main stem. The recommended funding is \$179,600. Ted Taylor moved to approve the project, Nick Myatt seconded, and the motion carried.

**Fly Creek-Smith Property Riparian Fencing Project:** The applicant is the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Winston Morton was available to answer questions. The project objectives are to protect fifteen acres of stream and wetland habitat from livestock and to improve the existing fence line. The technical committee rated this project high. The recommended funding is \$20,249. Dave Yost moved to approve the project, Jed Hassinger seconded, and the motion carried.

**Meadow Creek Upland Water Source Project Phase IIIA:** The applicant is the La Grande Ranger District. The project objectives are to improve stream shade, floodplain and riparian function, riparian vegetation, and ungulate grazing management. This is the last phase of the project. The technical committee rated this project medium. The recommended funding is \$26,155 for five spring developments in 2015. Nick Myatt moved to approve the project, Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried.

Jeff Oveson mentioned that GRMW needs to think about a more programmatic approach to funding projects with several phases. Nick Myatt stated it would be helpful to see within the budget table the funds that have been obligated for the future fiscal years.

**Project Video Review/Outlook:** Mason Bailie shared a video that staff created. Projects were video recorded with GRMW's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The UAV will benefit partners as well by aerial photography, mosaics, DEMS, DSMs, photo points and FLIR imaging. GRMW will be receiving a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) grant to purchase a FLIR camera.

**Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), BiOp Responsibilities and Authorities:** Jeff McLaughlin, BOR, introduced Paul Drury, new Civil Engineer for BOR BiOp program, the CRSO program out of Boise, and Darrell Dyke, BOR Grande Ronde Basin engineer. Paul will be working in La Grande with Darrell Dyke and also in the Boise office. Jeff showed a PowerPoint presentation on BOR's BiOp Responsibilities and Authorities (attachment to file). BOR along with BPA and ACOE are action agencies that work together to accomplish the goals within the BiOp. This allows BOR to work in the Columbia River Basin. BOR staff work in 14 separate subbasins in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. BOR provides technical assistance to project sponsors, agencies, and other partners working on projects, assessments, studies, research, project design, and permitting, etc. Mary Estes will add Paul to the Union County Coordination meeting mailing list.

**BPA Fish & Wildlife Program, History, Status and Direction and GRMW's Role:** Jeff Oveson stated that Karl Weist was going to give a presentation on the history of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program from the perspective of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. Jeff went over a PowerPoint presentation that BPA emailed earlier. Larry Cribbs wondered about BPA's objective. The thought on the objective is to show that there is a better way to do business and a better way to spend BPA funds and how GRMW can help in the effort. Tim Bailey indicated that in the past, BPA focused on

multiple species and now they are focused primarily on Chinook for restoration. BPA's area of focus is in the Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde areas. GRMW's role will continue to be the coordinating entity; continue to support the Atlas development and implementation; and continue to make partners more successful. The Catherine Creek Atlas process is essentially complete and will move into the implementation process. The Upper Grande Ronde Atlas is in the beginning stages. The facilitators are Tim Bailey, Allen Childs, and Jesse Steele. GRMW's role here is facilitation, data gathering, GIS services, and the management of the Atlas product. He reported that a draft version of the Atlas Implementation Charter for Catherine Creek was emailed last week to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review. The charter is basically the operations manual for implementation of the Atlas. He will email the draft charter to the Board Members (attachment to file). A meeting will take place in the second week of December with Jeff Oveson, Nick Myatt, Allen Childs, and David Kaplowe to discuss the charter and other concerns.

During lunch, Mike Hayward thanked Daryl Hawes for his service on the GRMW Board and presented him with an appreciation gift.

**Restoration Atlas:** Jesse Steele went over the PowerPoint presentation on the restoration Atlas (attachment to file). The Atlas is a strategic restoration process. The objectives are to 1) implement actions addressing priority limiting factors, 2) provide for accountability of investments, 3) establish a baseline for adaptive management, 4) integrate local stakeholders, and 5) integrate planning documents and monitoring. Nick Myatt stated that we need to know the individual names of the stakeholders. Allen Childs sees the Stakeholder Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as involving everyone from research, habitat, evaluation of populations, etc. Folks are coming to the table and sharing knowledge and getting on the same page to have a common direction. The current status of the Catherine Creek Atlas is finalizing the development phase moving into the implementation phase. The Upper Grande Ronde Atlas is in the development phase. Once the Catherine Creek Atlas and the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas are in place, they will be facilitated and managed by GRMW. BPA's role in the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas is to advise and monitor; ODFW (Tim Bailey) and CTUIR (Allen Childs) will be the co-leaders; GRMW will be coordination and support; Cardno will be the facilitator; and BOR will be technical support. The first TAC meeting on the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas will be held on December 9 & 10, 2014.

**CHaMP Monitoring Program Review:** Ted Sedell, ODFW Research, gave a PowerPoint presentation updating folks on the Columbia Habitat and Monitoring Program (CHaMP). As part of a comprehensive monitoring program, they are researching the effects of all on-going restoration in the basin and how it is affecting steelhead and Chinook salmon. They are using CHaMP as the habitat monitoring component. CTUIR is doing the effectiveness monitoring. Ted stated that they are counting and numerating non-salmonids and other non-target species as well for a more comprehensive community analysis. He focused on two areas in his presentation 1) restoration monitoring on Chinook habitat in Catherine Creek and 2) restoration monitoring on steelhead in Meadow Creek. Larry Cribbs indicated that there is data back in the 1980s on the Meadow Creek area that could be used. Ted stated that the older information is hard to find and hard to use since a lot of the information is on floppy discs or other forms that are not used today.

**OWEB Focused Investment Program (FIP):** Jeff Oveson provided two handouts: 1) Focused Investment Program (FIP) Strategic Action Plan Guidelines and 2) a letter to Linda Burnett, OWEB, with Proposed Priority Response Questions to OWEB Board (attachments to file). He went over his PowerPoint presentation on the (FIP) (attachment to file). OWEB will select statewide priorities on April 15, 2015.

Phase I of the application process is due on July 1, 2015. Phase II of the application process is due October 31, 2015. Applicants will be notified on which FIPs have been selected on January 27, 2016. GRMW would like to have a FIP in the Upper Grande Ronde and one in Catherine Creek. The maximum dollars available is \$4 million a biennium over six years. OWEB is expecting to fund six to eight FIPs statewide. They would like to fund one in each of the six regions. GRMW is considering OWEB's Capacity Building funds for Wallowa/Lostine area and Imnaha/Joseph area. GRMW has partners in Wallowa County including the Nez Perce Tribe, ODFW, The Nature Conservancy, etc. that could work together on preparing an Atlas or two in Wallowa County.

**Closing Comments:** It is understood that GRMWP has changed over the years and that there is still a need for the organization and Board. The Board members were disappointed that BPA wasn't in attendance. They wanted to have the opportunity to interact with them. The Board and staff agreed that they would like to meet with one person such as John Skidmore from BPA to help answer questions before the charter was finalized. Jeff Oveson will invite John to come and visit with the Board and staff in January.

Update after the meeting, Jeff and a few Board Members met with John Skidmore and Bill Maslen the week following the planning session.

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held on February 24, 2015, in Wallowa at 5:00 p.m.

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 planning session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

#### **Meeting Attendance:**

**Board Members/Alternates:** Mike Hayward, Ted Taylor, Nick Myatt, Larry Cribbs, Jed Hassinger, Allen Childs, Dave Yost, Norm Cimon, Katie Frenyea, Jim Lauman, and Tim Bailey.

**Others:** Paul Drury (BOR), Jeff McLaughlin (BOR), Darrell Dyke (BOR), Joe Platz (FS), Bill Gamble (FS), Gary Miller (USFWS), Winston Morton (ODFW), Peter Olmstead (USACE), Ted Sedell (ODFW), Bill Howell, and Lyle Kuchenbecker.

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