

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors Meeting
February 23, 2016 – 5:15 p.m.
Elgin Community Center, Elgin OR**

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Ted Taylor, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. Introductions followed. Norm Cimon moved to approve the November 24, 2015, meeting minutes; Larry Nall seconded, and the motion carried. Larry Nall moved to approve the December 8, 2015, annual meeting minutes; Nick Myatt seconded, and the motion carried. Katie Frenyea moved to approve the proposed February 23, 2016, meeting agenda; Jed Hassinger seconded, and the motion carried. (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for February through May were provided (attachments to file).

Election of Officers: Mike Hayward resigned as Wallowa County Commissioner and Susan Roberts, Wallowa County Commissioner, was appointed to sit on Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP) Board. Ted Taylor stated that the Board could either vote for a new Chair now or at the annual meeting in December. Larry Nall moved to nominate Ted Taylor as Chair now, Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried. With Ted moving into the Chair position, that left the Vice Chair position vacant. Jeff Oveson indicated that there should be one officer from Union County and the other from Wallowa County. Nick moved to nominate Dave Yost as Vice Chair, Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried.

Guest Speaker – Pham Minh Duc: Phil Hassinger thanked the Board for inviting them to the meeting. He introduced Pham Minh Duc and his wife, Truong Thanh Van. Duc is a hydraulic engineer from Vietnam and Van is a social worker from Vietnam. Phil and his wife, Trudy, had visited Vietnam several times. Van was teaching Vietnamese to English speaking people and Phil was one of her students. In 2014, Van visited Phil and Trudy here for a couple of months and attended the Summer Ag Institute. Van returned to Vietnam and married Duc. This is Duc's first visit here. Duc's background in implementing projects that move water. Phil wanted the audience to see the challenges of moving water in Vietnam and to think about the water use challenges that we have here. Duc gave a PowerPoint presentation on water management in North Vietnam. Van translated for him.

Review of Project Proposals:

La Grande Ranger District (LGRD) Dark Canyon Creek Project: This project was discussed at the November Board Meeting. At that time, the decision to fund the project was delayed because further discussion needed to take place with Joe Platz and the permittee on the maintenance and effectiveness on the fence. A small group: Jeff Oveson, Jesse Steele, Tim Bailey, Allen Childs, and Ted Taylor met with Joe, Aric Johnson, Bill Gamble and the permittee. Nick Myatt mentioned that Tim indicated that there will be new language added in the grazing permit. Jeff stated that all were satisfied with the outcome of the meeting. The Forest Service will write up the Annual Operating Plan. Joe indicated that Aric and Bill will meet with the permittee on the Annual Operating Plan and sign it. Larry Nall moved to approve the project without any conditions, Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried.

LGRD Sheep Creek Culvert Project: This project was approved at the November Board Meeting to replace a culvert on East Sheep Creek USFS Road 5184. The end of January, Joe Platz asked if they could

change the order of implementation. This change made the project larger. A new project proposal, maps, and other information pertaining to the project was sent out to the Board prior to the February Board Meeting (attachment to file). Joe is wanting to work on the 5160 road culvert replacement first instead of the 5182 500 road culvert replacement and is asking for an additional \$45,000 in BPA funds. Total project cost is \$134,421 in Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds. The existing 5160 culvert is undersized and does not pass fish at all life stages. They will replace and realign the culvert with a larger culvert to adequately handle high flows, prevent flooding and maintain aquatic organism passage. Implementation is planned for 2016. Norm Cimon moved to approve the 5160 culvert work done this year with the additional \$45,000 and the 5182 500 culvert work in 2018, Nick Myatt seconded, and the motion carried.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Program (FIP) Update:

FIP Implementation: Jeff Oveson mentioned that Jesse Steele, Katie Frenyea, and Allen Childs gave their testimonies at the OWEB Public Comment Period in McMinnville on the FIP. He reported that our FIP application was approved. GRMWP applied for \$6.9 million and OWEB reduced that amount by 7%. He went over a table that he provided that showed the organizations along with the dedicated funds for each biennium (attachment to file). The FIP Implementation grants will run for three Bienniums ending in June 2021. The first biennium is only for one year. Jeff indicated that the FIP project applications will come through GRMW Board for review and approval.

FIP Capacity-Building Grant: Jeff stated that GRMW was the only organization in Oregon that received both a FIP Implementation Grant and a FIP Capacity-Building Grant. Coby Menton reported that he submitted a FIP Capacity-Building application called Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership for restoration atlas funds for Wallowa and Imnaha Subbasins. The application was approved by OWEB for \$84,000 for two years. He plans to use the Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde Atlases as templates for the Wallowa and Imnaha Subbasins Restoration Atlas. OWEB received 23 capacity-building applications and eight were approved. The eight awarded capacity-building grants were: Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership, John Day Partnership, Clackamas Partnership, south coast (3), mid coast, and central coast. The core partners for the Wallowa Partnership are: GRMWP, Wallowa Natural Resources Committee (NRAC), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), The Freshwater Trust (TFT), Forest Service (FS), and Wallowa Resources (WR). Coby indicated that he has a call into Dave Kaplowe, BPA, on assisting with the Atlas process. The plans are to have the atlas done in one year. They will be scheduling meetings to start in the spring and they will be working on maps shortly. Mitch Daniel stated that BPA has been working with NPT on their Atlas in the Locksaw.

Partner Reports:

Union Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD): Katie Frenyea reported that the USWCD and partners submitted an application for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding. Their application was approved and they will be receiving \$3.5 million over the next 5 years for implementation in the Upper Grande Ronde. There will be an overlap with FIP in the project areas of Willow Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde. USWCD and NRCS will administer the funds. Katie stated that the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District (WSWCD) also received a RCPP for Alder Slope for under \$2 million.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR): Katie mentioned that the construction on Southern Cross will wrap up in a couple of weeks and then they will start planting several thousand plants. Allen Childs hired two new employees, a Bio 1 and a tech.

Nez Perce Tribe's Tulley-Hill Diversion Project: Mitch Daniel stated that the Tulley-Hill Diversion project received OWEB funding. Bids went out and Tetra Tech's bid was awarded. There will be design funding this Fall.

Nez Perce Tribe and GRMW's Lostine Sheep Ridge Project: Coby Menton indicated that there was a bid opening for this project last Fall. All the bids came in over the engineers bid with the lowest bid still over by \$120,000. They did not accept any of those bids. The reason for the high bids was that the average flows for July and August were high and the project area was narrow. They are working on an in water work window forbearance. Bids will be held again this spring. They are wanting to start work on this project on September 5th and be done by October 10th. They are seeking advice from Chuck Simpson on the fish way. He stated that they applied for Blue Sky funding through TFT for \$30,000 for construction. This will help with the additional cost of the rock.

Staff Report:

The State of the Science Meeting: As part of the atlas process, the first annual State of the Science meeting took place last week. There were great presentations by scientists on a fish tracking study, CHaMP monitoring program, habitat flow monitoring, and temperature modeling. Next year, they plan to hold the meeting at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) for a couple of days.

Bird Track Springs Kickoff: Today, the kickoff meeting was held on Bird Track Springs. There were 50 people in attendance at the Fire Center in La Grande. Allen Childs will be creating a small biological group to meet and review materials on a regular basis.

Shared Position with The Freshwater Trust: The GRMW and TFT will have a shared restoration outreach position working with landowners, etc. They are in the process of working on the job description and plan to fly the position soon. This position will be funded with the FIP Implementation funds and funds from TFT. As part of their duties with TFT, he/she will conduct a feasibility study in Catherine Creek and will be doing outreach for GRMW. The person hired will be housed at the GRMW office in La Grande and hopefully will be on board by June.

BPA Accountability Report: The reports for December and January were provided in the Board packets (attachments to file). Jeff Oveson mentioned that Tracy Hauser, BPA, indicated that she is trying to get more design money into our budget and for Wallowa County.

Public Participation: Joe Platz, La Grande Ranger District, thanked the Board and staff for approving and supporting the projects. He plans to have an accomplishment report out by the end of March. The contract for the Five Points project will start in June. They will be working on six miles of stream doing construction of fish structures. After construction, they will be planting 20,000 to 50,000 cuttings through Five Points.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: OWEB will be holding their Board meeting in La Grande on April 26th. Since this will take place, GRMW will hold their next Board meeting on May 24, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the

Wallowa Community Center in Wallowa. GRMW will plan to hold their August Board Meeting/BBQ at the 6 Ranch in Enterprise. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 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 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."

Meeting Attendance:

Board Members: Ted Taylor, Nick Myatt, Larry Nall, Mitch Daniel, Jed Hassinger, Norm Cimon, Katie Frenyea, and Susan Roberts.

Others: Pham Minh Duc, Truong Thanh Van, Phil Hassinger, and Joe Platz.

Staff: Jeff Oveson, Coby Menton, Lacey Moore, and Mary Estes.