

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
April 22, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.
Elgin Community Center – Elgin OR**

Due to Mike Hayward, Chair, and Mark Davidson, Vice Chair, having a meeting out of town, Ted Taylor was asked to chair the meeting. Ted brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Introductions followed.

Approval of the Minutes and Agenda: Dave Yost moved to approve the January 28, 2014, meeting minutes; Nick Myatt seconded and the motion carried. Larry Cribbs moved to approve the proposed Board meeting agenda; Joe McCormack seconded and the motion carried (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for April, May, June and July were provided in the Board packets (attachment to file). Leigh Collins added that she will be working with Eastern Oregon University's Eastern Promise Science Track, 9-credit sessions that runs from June 23rd to July 11th. Leigh reported that she will be going on maternity leave the end of July and then moving to Pocatello Idaho. Daryl Hawes introduced Jed Hassinger as his potential alternate to the Board. Laura Mahrt reported that she just finished up her 14 years of doing the spotted frog surveys on the McCoy Meadows Ranch Restoration Project. The first year, she found only 5 egg masses, but found 187 egg masses in 2014. On this restoration project the creek had been restored to its meander and twelve ponds were added. On End Creek, the count has gone down from 52 to 2. Laura presumes the reduction in numbers is related to bull frog predation. Katie Frenyea announced that Craig Schellsmidt resigned as Manager of the Union Soil and Water Conservation District last Thursday and that she has been selected to be the Acting District Manager until further notice. They probably won't fly the position for six months.

Stepwise Recommendations: CC44 II & Ladd Creek Hwy 203 Bridge Projects: Lyle Kuchenbecker provided two handouts: September 2013 Project Solicitation and USWCD Proposed Budget Categories CC44 II (attachments to file). These projects were also discussed at the January 2014 Board meeting. Lyle went over the changes in the budget. With the changes there were additional funds available to be used on other projects. One example, Ladd Creek Hwy 203: At the January Board meeting, the Board approved an additional \$100,000 for this project. The cost of the project went down to \$73,000.

CC44 II: In spite of \$561,000 BPA funds committed to this project in 2013, additional funds are needed to complete work scheduled for 2014. Staff's recommendation was to approve \$120,000 for the roughened channel component of the project, contingent on DEQ 319 and Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) funds being acquired and \$90,000 for the pipeline contingent on OWEB and other funds being acquired and the ODFW consent to injury letter being issued. There was much discussion. Jeff Oveson had concerns along with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that they didn't want to fund the pipeline. There was the concern expressed that the original level of habitat benefits expected from the project would not be achieved, even though there will still be considerable habitat improvements. BPA and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) have a considerable amount vested in this project and are anxious to see it completed successfully. Katie Frenyea stated that the landowners cost

share on the pipeline is moving cattle, equipment use and labor costs. There is no monetary contribution due to an earlier agreement. Also landowners would be contributing some use of their productive land through channel meanders and easements. Katie will be meeting with the landowners next week about a variety of methods to guarantee protection and maintenance of the project site. There is a need to move quickly because the work window begins July 1st. This project is being bid in three distinct segments. The first bid was for procurement of the woody materials and establishing access roads to the properties. The contractor (Partney Construction) has been selected for this stage. The second bid is for the restoration work and this will open up next week and be open for two weeks. The third bid is for the pipeline and this will take place in the fall. Dave Yost moved to approve the \$210,000 contingent on having a signed workable agreement between the landowners and the Union Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD) and upon receiving the other funding, Daryl Hawes seconded. Question – Larry Nall-If in the landowner meeting there is not a conclusion, there will be no approval until next meeting? After discussion, Katie will send out an email to Jeff Oveson after the landowner meeting on the outcome of the meeting. Jeff will forward this email to the Board with the expectation that they express their support or lack thereof through a return email. Katie Frenyea abstained from voting.

ODFW's Reorganization: Oregon had four regions and now has two regions, East Region and the West Region. Now there are only two regional managers for Oregon. Bruce Eddy is the East Region Manager. The hatchery coordinator is now covering 11 hatcheries instead of 4 hatcheries. On May 20th, there will be a public meeting on the proposed budget and the budget development process in La Grande. Nick will email Mary Estes the information and she will forward that on to the Board and staff. Nick Myatt reported that ODFW is coming to the end of their six-year budget cycle. Five years ago, ODFW went to the legislature for fee increases, with the commitment they would not seek further increases for another six years. ODFW is supported primarily by hunter and angler license and fee dollars. This legislative session will include a fee increase package. ODFW is considering a number of different program reductions.

Forest Plan Revision: Larry Cribbs mentioned that the Forest Plan covers four National Forests: Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, Malheur and a small portion of the Ochoco. It costs \$800,000/\$900,000 to put the Forest Plan together over a long period of time. ODFW and Nez Perce Tribe are involved along with Larry and Norm Cimon. Wild and Scenic Rivers are being considered and Five Point Creek is one being studied. There is a possible wilderness extension. This will set the scope for management on these four forests. Some Board Members felt GRMW should be involved. Larry suggested having John Laurence, Forest Supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, to come to the June Board meeting and give a presentation on the Forest Plan. There has been a 60-day extension on the comment period. Jeff Oveson will send a letter to John asking him about a presentation.

OWEB Focused Investment Strategy: Additional information is within the written staff report (attachment to file). Jeff Oveson indicated that Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB, will be here on May 8th for an organizational meeting with our partners and staff. OWEB wants six to eight focused investments in the State that will be identified as highly functioning partnerships. This kind of investment would have a

limit of 6-10 years. In addition to that, there are the capacity improvement areas that are geographical specific. GRMW and the partners are going to propose two focused investment areas, Upper Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek. The focused investment strategy has a requirement that there needs to be an action plan for each area. Their plan is to use the restoration atlas. Wallowa County is not ready to start their restoration atlas process. The capacity building areas may include Wallowa, Lostine, Imnaha and Joseph Creek including Camp Creek. BOR will be the facilitators for the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Atlas Process and they will provide a grant writer for the proposals. These funds would go through the GRMW Foundation.

Continuing Discussions:

Catherine Creek Restoration Atlas: Additional information is provided in the written staff report. Jesse Steele reported there is an urgency to get this atlas process wrapped up due to projects being held up waiting for the completion of the atlas plus they need to start the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Atlas Process. There are two more meetings scheduled. They will be developing prioritization matrix of opportunities (biological and feasibility scores) and develop the final product.

Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Atlas: Jesse stated that this needs to be done by next spring. They are proposing to meet every 4th Thursday of the month. Lacey Moore is gathering and organizing the data. She is making huge improvements on how the data will be used and displayed. He is hoping that this process will start in May or June.

Staff Report: A written staff report was provided (attachment to file).

Meadow Creek Workshop: An agenda for the Meadow Creek Workshop was provided (attachment to file). The workshop was held on April 2, 2014, at Eastern Oregon University. This workshop came together after folks read an article on restoration and monitoring on Meadow Creek up Starkey in the GRMW Ripples newsletter. Jeff Oveson mentioned that this article got a lot of attention even from the Washington DC office. Leigh Collins was contacted by the PNW Lab and OSU extension research folks on having GRMW host a workshop on Meadow Creek. There were 50 in attendance and 20 on the webinar at the workshop. Jeff stated that Leigh did a great job in putting the workshop together. Mason Bailie, Jesse Steele and Lacey Moore produced a video of Meadow Creek for the workshop. This video was shared at the Board meeting. He indicated that Mike Wisdom, PNW Lab, the Forest Service Chief and three former Forest Service Chiefs will be visiting with him and touring the area in July. The PNW Lab will be a research partner in the Focus Investment Strategy. A slide presentation of the workshop is available to view, contact Leigh if interested.

Nez Perce Tribe Partnership: Coby Menton and Jeff Oveson met with Emmitt Taylor, Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries Watershed Program. They spoke about the Nez Perce's new watershed project manager coming on board in June and shared restoration interests. They felt that GRMW will have a productive-fruitful partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe.

Project Status Report and GRMW's Drone: Mason Bailie provided an updated project status report (attachment to file). Mason shared that staff has talked about the cost effectiveness of purchasing a

drone over hiring a pilot and helicopter on monitoring projects, etc. The drone was more cost effective. He showed a picture of GRMW's drone. The drone will help with monitoring photos, aerial photos, imagery for GIS, etc. He has looked into the FAA Regulations on drones and provided the information (attachment to file). They are receiving permission from landowners before going on their properties to take photos, etc. Nick Myatt will send Mason information from the State on drones as well. Leigh Collins mentioned that GRMW sent in an application for DEQ 319 funds for a FLIR camera. With the FLIR camera, you will be able to gather temperature data.

GIS in Action Conference: Lacey Moore attended this conference in early April in Portland. This conference was attended by user groups in Oregon. In the sessions, they talked about software and found out cheaper ways to purchase software, etc.

Opportunity for Public Participation: Opportunity offered.

Next Board Meeting: The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on June 24, 2014, 5:00 p.m. at the Wallowa Community Center in Wallowa. 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 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 and Alternates: Ted Taylor, Norm Cimon, Larry Cribbs, Daryl Hawes, Jim Lauman, Katie Frenyea, Nick Myatt, Larry Nall, Joe McCormack, Dave Yost and Laura Mahrt

Others: Lyle Kuchenbecker, Colleen Fagan, Jed Hassinger, Bob Gecy and Leslie Gecy

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