

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.  
Alpine Meadows Golf Course, Enterprise OR**

**Approval of the Minutes and Agenda:** Larry Nall moved to approve the June 24, 2014, meeting minutes; Dave Yost seconded and the motion carried. The OWEB Council Capacity Grant agenda item was moved to be included in the staff report; the agenda was then approved without opposition (attachments to file).

**Calendar/Announcements:** Calendars for August, September, and October were provided in the Board packets (attachment to file). Jeff Yanke inquired about the Salmon Summit taking place in October. Jeff Oveson responded that it was an event which Ted Sedell would be attending to represent the Grande Ronde Basin. Lacey Moore announced that Board Members were welcome to take a GRMW laptop bag with them after the meeting. Introductions followed.

**Continuing Discussions:**

**Update on CC 44 Project:** Katie Frenyea reported that Phase II construction was completed on August 14<sup>th</sup>, meeting their instream work window a day early. Clean up was scheduled to conclude August 27<sup>th</sup>. A project walk through with several groups took place the previous week. The pipeline portion of the project went out for bid August 25<sup>th</sup> and will close the second week of September, with a site visit the week prior. Frenyea then opened the floor to questions and comments from the board. Mike Hayward complimented Frenyea and the SWCD on seeing the project to completion through all the changes and delays. Frenyea added that easement fences are being laid out and surveyed for, to be finished by October.

**Staff Report:** (Attachment to file)

Coby Menton discussed the timeline for a Biological Opinion on 6-Ranch phase II, with an expected start date this fall. The Sheep Ridge project is aiming to have 30% design completion for the in order to apply for construction funding from OWEB. The Ground Creek Diversion Structure technical assistant grant project has a new landowner, which Menton hoped would put that project back into motion.

Jesse Steele discussed wetland mitigation updated with Idaho Power, which is anticipated to pick up this fall with the construction of new ground water wells. Steele announced that GRMW was approached by OSU's Ag. Research Center regarding a restoration project on Catherine Creek at their Hall Ranch. Steele added that GRMW is hoping to engage OSU's Institute for Water and Watersheds to have students complete design work for that project. Jeff Yanke inquired why a project on the Hall Ranch (a healthier part of Catherine Creek) would be a location of interest. Steele responded that work would be focused on side channels and juvenile rearing, as well as considerations for how Catherine Creek is approaching Highway 203 and the road's future integrity. The Whiskey Creek/Courtney project is waiting to hear

from OWEB on funding, a project which GRMW has partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry on.

Jeff Oveson mentioned that GRMW is expecting to see three large project proposals received by September 15<sup>th</sup>, and perhaps a few smaller proposals. Technical committee site visits are anticipated to be the week of September 29<sup>th</sup>, contingent on schedules. Recommendations for funding after those site visiting and Technical Committee reviews in expected to be presented to the Board in either October or December. Oveson formally introduced Mitch Daniel from the Nez Perce tribe and iterated his enthusiasm for a future expanded relationship between GRMW and the Tribe.

Oveson announced the Focus Investment Program from OWEB has an approved set of rules. For Union County, the Restoration Atlas would serve as an action plan, and fall under an OWEB “high functioning partnership”. For Wallowa County, a “capacity building partnership” grant could be applied for and used to complete an Atlas for the Wallowa/Lostine and Joseph Cr/Imnaha basins. OWEB has also approved the new Council Capacity grant rules; in order for GRMW to obtain one of these grants certain parts of GRMW’s by-laws regarding the Board of Directors will need to be more specific. A draft of those needed updates will be presented at the October board meeting.

Oveson discussed the Education/Outreach coordinator position for GRMW, which has been advertised for approximately two weeks. Since that time, John Skidmore, the manager of BPA’s Oregon Fish and Wildlife Program, has asked for a meeting to discuss the feasibility of rehiring for that position. A meeting to discuss that vacancy, and other Administrative budget considerations, will be taking place along with Bill Maslen in early September. Oveson stated that BPA is leaning towards redirecting funding away from ‘umbrella projects’ instead towards project implementation. Oveson also stressed the importance of defining roles and maintaining communication with both BPA and the Bureau of Reclamation, in the future months. Discussion followed on understanding the financial considerations and project implementation relationships between Bonneville, GRMW and BOR.

#### **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Update:**

Karen Leiendecker, OWEB Regional Program Representative, detailed the results of the Region 5 grant application review team results. This is the first year that all projects which were recommended by the review team were able to be funded. Of the 19 approved projects in Region 5, five of those are in the Grande Ronde Basin. Whiskey Creek/Courtney was approved with amendments. CC 44 Phase III was approved. The Wallowa River/Baker Technical Assistant grant was also approved. The Grande Ronde basin received 41% of the total approved funding for restoration projects and 57% of the technical assistance dollars.

#### **Alpine Meadows Introduction and Welcome:**

Bill Ables, the Board Chairman for Alpine Meadows, welcomed the group and introduced the tour we would be going on of the golf course, including a drone flight and irrigation system overview. Ables also mentioned the benefit to anadromous fish as a result of the Trout Creek/Alpine Meadows restoration project, which has also increased the aesthetic beauty and landscaping potential for the golf course. In

the last year, 32 steelhead redds were counted in the stretch of Trout Creek which spans the length of the Golf Course.

*A tour of the facilities followed the meeting and dinner was served at the Clubhouse thereafter.*

**Next Board Meeting:** The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. at the Elgin 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 meeting adjourned at 5:37 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:** Katie Frenyea, Ted Taylor, Larry Nall, Jeff Yanke, Dave Yost, Jed Hassinger, Daryl Hawes, Norm Cimon, and Mike Hayward (Chair).

**Others:** Karen Leiendecker, OWEB; Mitch Daniel, Nez Perce Tribe and Lyle Kuchenbecker.

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