

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
February 24, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.
Wallowa Community Center, Wallowa**

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Joe McCormack moved to approve the October 28, 2014, Board meeting minutes and the December 2, 2014, Planning Session minutes; Jed Hassinger seconded, and the motion carried. Joe McCormack asked that the revised proposed meeting agenda for February 24, 2015, Board meeting be amended by adding a discussion on the possibility of the rebirth of an old project. By consensus, the amended agenda was approved (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for February, March and April were provided (attachment to file). Coby Menton stated that there will be site visits on Lostine River Sheep Ridge and Wallowa River Baker Projects between March 10th and 13th.

Review of Executive Committee/BPA Conversation: Mike Hayward and Ted Taylor spoke on a meeting that was held in November in Pendleton with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) along with Jeff Oveson and Ted Taylor. Since this meeting had a negative outcome, another meeting was scheduled to clarify things. A week after the planning session, Bill Maslan, John Skidmore, Jeff Oveson, Mike Hayward, Ted Taylor, Nick Myatt and Allen Childs met. Mike indicated that he felt that this meeting was positive. There were not a lot of questions answered but it did open doors to rebuild relationships. Ted stated that Bill was open to listening to us. They agreed to talk about the roles and responsibilities. BPA does recognize that GRMW has a big role in the Atlas process. There was an agreement that John and Jeff will be the one-on-one contact between BPA and GRMW and that they will hold regular conference calls. John will try and attend GRMW's Board meeting.

Desk Audits of Staff: Mike Hayward reported there is an issue that BPA sees that GRMW's work falls under the category of administrative. To help resolve this conflict, Ted Taylor performed desk audits of the staff to determine what percentage of staff is administrative and what percentage is product/service related. Ted provided a summary of the audit (attachment to file). Through this audit, it has shown that GRMW staff has a higher percentage doing products/services. An observation during the audit, Ted found that BPA issues verbal guidance to GRMW Executive Director and staff and it has been suggested that conversations are to be in a written form. Ted recommended that the desk audits be sent to BPA, OWEB, and NPCC.

BPA Administration Contract: Lyle Kuchenbecker provided the work elements and the proposed budget for the GRMWF Administration, May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016, contract (attachments to file). The work elements and the budget are still being worked on by BPA and Lyle. For this upcoming contract, the budget is about \$640K which is less than the current contract budget of \$782K. This is due to having one less staff member and less funding needed for payroll of the Executive Director since Oregon Watershed

Enhancement Board (OWEB) will cover most of this position through the new OWEB Watershed Council Support grant that is still in the process of being approved.

Update on Catherine Creek & Upper Grande Ronde Atlas: Jesse Steele shared the time lines for the Catherine Creek Atlas and the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas. For the Catherine Creek Atlas, the Science TAC meetings are finished. The opportunity maps and matrices are out for review and comments are due March 6th. The contractor, Cardno, is working on the detailed maps. David Kaplowe, BPA, is working on the charter comments and will incorporate those by February 27th. The next draft of the charter will be out in early March. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is in charge of the outreach plan. The draft outreach plan was due last week. The feasibility component is not being developed enough at this point. Lacey Moore reported that the water scoring on Catherine Creek is finished. This included looking at all water rights associated with the project opportunities on Catherine Creek. Some of the water rights are being transferred. The project opportunities are being reviewed by the Science TAC. She indicated that an electronic opportunity map is circulating for comments that are due March 6th.

The Upper Grande Ronde (UGR) Atlas meeting will be held on March 5th to work on limiting factors and to start to identify actions. They are making great strides in the UGR Atlas process. They are about halfway through of being completed. Staff is working well with David Kaplowe. The final UGR meeting will be held in April 29th. There is a great need to be completed by July so GRMW can submit a Focused Investment Program (FIP) application to OWEB.

GRMW Comments on the Catherine Creek Atlas Charter: The draft Atlas Implementation Charter for Catherine Creek was emailed to the Board for their comments. A copy was also provided in the Board packets (attachment to file). Ted Taylor, Larry Cribbs and Norm Cimon submitted comments and those were provided (attachment to file). Norm Cimon went over his comments. Mike Hayward asked “are the entities listed in the charter going to play their roles to make all of this successful?” Tim Bailey stated “no because it is a voluntary process and nobody has to participate.” Lyle Kuchenbecker mentioned that if any entity wants to do a project with BPA funding, they have to go through this process. Tim indicated that ODFW gave comments on the draft but stated that they were not comfortable in providing final comment because it is not a final product and that they will comment again on the final product. Mike asked the Board if they would like to state the same as ODFW. They agreed to do so. It was mentioned that there has been a suggestion in throwing out the Stakeholder TAC Group in the charter. There is disagreement in doing this because it will leave a huge hole in the charter process. It was mentioned that the GRMW Board should be the Stakeholder TAC Group. Ted Taylor noticed that his comments on the attachment were from the draft version of November 2014 not that of the draft version dated January 2015. Jeff Oveson will be asked to send Ted’s comments on the January version to the Board for their review in the morning and then forward all comments to Dave Kaplowe.

OWEB Council Capacity Work Plan 2015-2017: Staff has been working on their work plan. The work plan was emailed to the Board for review and provided in the Board packets for their approval (attachment to file). The work plan is due on March 2nd in Salem. Larry Nall moved to approve that the work plan be submitted to OWEB as written, Jed Hassinger seconded, and the motion carried.

OWEB Focused Investment Program (FIP): A handout was provided on OWEB's FIP Setting Priorities (attachment to file). Lacey Moore went over the handout. By the end of April or shortly after, we should know if GRMW can submit a final FIP application.

The Rebirth of an Old Project - Tamkaliks Channel Restoration Project: Joe McCormack reported that when this project first began several years ago, they had a neighbor back out after investing \$20,000 in the pre-design work. The Nez Perce Tribe has become recipients of three bridges. ODOT has agreed to replace the deer creek bridge in this project area. They will add the other two bridges to the deer creek bridge using them as ramps. To help with the flood mitigation, Joe would like Mitch Daniel and Coby Menton to work on designs to see if it is beneficial to create ponds. The juvenile rearing areas on the ponds are important for Chinook salmon and steelhead. The tribe will introduce Coho to the area in 2016. Mike Hayward indicated that the deer creek bridge is a historical bridge that is currently located in the Minam and before that was located in Wallowa. Since the bridge is historical, it has to stay in Wallowa County and has to be laid close to its original location which is close to Wallowa over the Wallowa River. The bridge will be a foot bridge. There are currently some right of way issues. There are educational opportunities related to wetlands, fisheries, bridges, etc. There will be signs explaining the bridge. Coby, Mitch and Joe will visit more on this project.

Little Sheep Creek: Mike Hayward mentioned he spoke with Coby Menton on a potential project on Little Sheep Creek where the Imnaha Highway goes over the Loop Road. The County put in for a Federal Highway Project to redo the first five miles of that road. Where the two roads come together, they need to replace two culverts that involve a partial fish passage issue. The Federal Highways has a 10.7% match requirement. This is roughly a 5 to 6 million dollar project, therefore the County would need to write a check for \$500 to \$600 thousand. They are in the process of looking for other funding sources. They would like to receive State funds to replace the culverts to help with the match requirements. Coby Menton suggested having three different funding sources.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: Next meeting will be held on April 28, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the Elgin Community Center in Elgin. 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 adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Attendance:

Board Members/Alternates: Mike Hayward, Ted Taylor, Larry Nall, Norm Cimon, Jed Hassinger, Joe McCormack, and Tim Bailey.

Others: Lyle Kuchenbecker.

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