

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
August 27, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.
Elgin Community Center Pavilion
Elgin OR**

Meeting to Order and Introductions: Mark Davidson, Vice Chair, brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He indicated that Mike Hayward, Chair, was at the Oregon State Fair. Introductions followed.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Bruce Eddy moved to approve the June 25, 2013, meeting minutes; Ted Taylor seconded and the motion carried. Ted Taylor moved to approve the proposed agenda for August 27, 2013, meeting; Norm Cimon seconded and the motion carried (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars were provided for August, September and October (attachments to file). No additions or corrections were made.

Emmit Taylor, Nez Perce Tribe: Emmit Taylor, Acting Director of the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Watershed Division in Lapwai ID, gave a brief background on himself. He stated that neither he or Joe McCormack could attend the June GRMW Board meeting to discuss a letter of support they requested for the Nez Perce Tribe's Coordination Project. The coordination project is a small project for \$180,000 to be able to hire a project leader and another employee to identify projects and seek funding through GRMW, OWEB and other avenues to fund those projects. At the last Board meeting, the letter of support was brought up for discussion and Mike Hayward requested that someone from the Nez Perce Tribe come and present more information. In the meantime, GRMW provided a letter to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) in regards to the Nez Perce Tribe requesting a letter of support for their project stating GRMW Board tabled the discussion because of the lack of information (attachment to file). Emmit reported that during the ISRP reviews, the ISRP gave the Nez Perce Tribe proposal an unfavorable review and said it did not meet scientific criteria. The only avenue of recourse left to the Tribe is to provide comment on the review during the public comment period. They believe that the ISRP was confused and thought they were planning on duplicating the work of GRMW, which Mr. Taylor and colleagues felt was a misinterpretation of their proposal. The GRMW is an umbrella project and their project is not. They currently have two letters of support from the Umatilla and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forests and one coming for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. Bruce Eddy moved to write a letter of support stating what was said in the last paragraph of the letter previously sent to NPCC from GRMW (attachment to file) which stated "The Board has been supportive of NPT receiving funds enabling them to

participate in the GRMW Step Wise Process” and to have Emmet work with Jeff Oveson on the specifics to go in the letter; Daryl Hawes seconded and the motion carried. Emmet thanked the Board and stated that he is looking forward to working with GRMW.

Heidi Hartman, Oregon Department of State Lands: Heidi Hartman introduced herself and gave a brief background on herself. She has been with the ODSL since September 2012. Heidi will be visiting with Coby Menton tomorrow to look at some post construction monitoring. She will also be looking at doing sample sets across the State and looking at how projects turned out in comparison to how they were permitted.

Presentations: Bill Howell, Board Member of The Oregon Agriculture Foundation, gave a little background on how the restoration of Willow Creek came into play. He presented Jeff Oveson with a plaque “In grateful appreciation for your generous commitment of time, leadership, support and inspiration to our endeavors and in helping us achieve our conservation goals on the Jean and Glen McKenzie Century Farm and the Willow Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement Project.” He had another plaque to present to Allen Childs, but Allen was not in attendance.

New Topics:

GRMWF’s Financial Report: Mary Estes provided the Board with a profit and loss report that covered January 2013 through July 2013 (attachment to file). She stated that she will provide a report on a quarterly basis and if the Board would like to see something added, etc. to let her know.

New Method of Council Support Grants: Jeff Oveson reported that OWEB and statewide watershed councils have struggled with the watershed council support grant process. They have gone from Oregon Measure 66 (lottery funds-non capital) to Measure 76 (lottery funds-capital). There is no council support application process for 2013-2015, but councils are being required to submit a work plan in place of the traditional application. OWEB has requested that Jeff sits on their Rules Advisory Committee to develop the new Council Support guidelines. He has agreed to sit on this committee. There was additional written information in the staff report (attachment to file).

OWEB’s Building Capacity Process: Karen Leiendecker, OWEB, stated that last week was the deadline for the submission of the “building capacity” grant applications. OWEB will offer a grant application to the watershed councils especially to the Westside councils. In the Westside Region 3 area, they have around 22 Watershed Councils. The Rogue Basin had 12 watershed councils and currently has 8. The watershed councils in smaller regions are getting a lot of funding. Hopefully in the future, there will be more balance and equity and the consolidation of watershed councils. In October, OWEB will offer \$25,000 for Action Plans that are part of

Technical Assistance. Even though GRMW's Operation Action Plan was completed in 1994, OWEB recognizes it as an action plan. She provided a handout that was a draft for discussion on the building capacity grant offering for 2013-2015 (attachment to file).

OWEB's April 22, 2013, Grant Cycle: Leiendecker reported that the Regional Review Team met on the April 22, 2013, Grant Cycle. For Region 5, Eastern Oregon, there were four project applications for the Grande Ronde Basin awarded: 1) Grande Ronde River Irrigation and Water Quality Improvement (Union Soil & Water Conservation District) for \$37,705; 2) Beaver Creek Dam Fish Passage (City of La Grande Public Works) for \$150,000; 3) Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control (Tri-County Coop Weed Management Area) for \$25,000; and Klages-Patton Ditch Elimination (Wallowa SWCD) for \$41,093. She provided two handouts for this grant cycle (attachments to file).

OWEB Watershed Council Self-Evaluation and Board Member Evaluations: The evaluations forms were mailed out to Board Members prior to the Board meeting. Five evaluations were completed and returned. Jeff asked the Board Members that haven't returned their evaluations to fill those out and return them. On the five that were returned had positive feedback. Jeff suggested that the current OWEB self-evaluation form does not get to the real issues and that GRMW might want to consider a different format.

Rails & Trails Program: Ted Taylor received a letter from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in regards of an invitation to join the Consortium for the Wallowa Union Trail Corridor (attachment to file). The Wallowa Union Historic Trail Consortium wants to build a trail along the railroad tracks for 63 miles (Elgin to Joseph). Their first meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2013. The three primary parties of the consortium are the Oregon Parks and Recreation, Union County and Wallowa County. Other participants include Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Eastern Oregon University. Ted asked the Board if they would be interested in participating in this. Norm Cimon thought GRMW could provide expertise. Norm indicated that if it is problematic to not participate. Mark Davidson stated he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Union Wallowa Railroad Authority that owns and operates the railroad. He also stated that the Counties didn't have a chance to look at the letter but he feels it is not all accurate. He clarified that Union and Wallowa Counties have not joined a consortium. He also indicated that folks were moving way too fast. He indicated that the September 5th meeting may not take place. Not all the budget for this project is available. Daryl Hawes indicated that there will be a lot of environmental issues and he feels that the ones that really want this want to see the railroad converted to a trails system instead of a "rails and trails" system.

GRMW's Stream Trailer: Leigh Collins brought the stream trailer to show the Board during their BBQ after the meeting. She indicated that during her educational activities at Wallowa

State Park, La Grande Middle School, Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, and the Grande Ronde Academy the students have really enjoyed the stream trailer. Oveson stated that Leigh did 90% of the work putting the trailer together. Anderson Perry and Associates did the design work.

Staff Report: A written staff report was provided (attachment to file). Jeff Oveson briefly went over the Ladd Creek Highway 203 Bridge Project, Upper Grande Ronde Tributary Assessment and the Catherine Creek Restoration Atlas. Jesse Steele spoke on the Catherine Creek Baum Wetland and Rearing Project, Catherine Creek Wilson Wetland and Rearing Project and the Whiskey Creek Courtney Restoration Project. Coby Menton briefed the Board on the Trout Creek/Alpine Meadows Irrigation and Habitat Improvement Project, Wallowa River/6-Ranch Habitat Restoration Project II, and the Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operations.

Opportunity for Public Participation: Opportunity offered.

Next Board Meeting: The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held on October 22, 2013, at 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 6:09 p.m.

The mission of the Board of Directors’ of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed 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.”

Board Meeting Attendance:

Board Members/Alternates: Mark Davidson, Troy Abercrombie, Ted Taylor, Bruce Eddy, Daryl Hawes, Larry Nall, Laura Mahrt, Larry Cribbs, Bill Howell, Katie Frenyea and Norm Cimon.

Others: Emmit Taylor, Heidi Hartman, Lyle Kuchenbecker, Florence Howell, Nick Myatt and Karen Leiendecker.

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