

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Annual Meeting
December 8, 2015
Ascension's Kimsey Commons Conference Building
in Cove OR**

Greetings and Introductions: Ted Taylor brought the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions followed.

For more information on the power point presentations mentioned below, you can find them on this link <https://goo.gl/r57qez>; there are file copies as well (attachments to file).

Year in Review by GRMW Staff: They gave a power point presentation.

Jeff Oveson – FIP: The Focused Investment Program (FIP) is a high priority for the staff and partners. GRMW along with the partners submitted a written response in regards to OWEB's questions on proposed priorities to OWEB a year ago. GRMW gave a presentation to OWEB in January and in April, OWEB listed focused priorities. There are two FIP funding opportunities: 1) Implementation funding and 2) Capacity building. Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde would be in the implementation funding and the Wallowa and Imnaha would be under the capacity building to develop the atlas process. The Upper Grande Ronde, Catherine Creek, and Imnaha were the highest tier priority watershed. The Wallowa is the second priority. There were 12 applicants for first phase of the FIP process and nine of them were invited to submit an application for the second phase. GRMW was one of the nine. OWEB will be holding interviews and public comment on January 12th in Salem. GRMW had good support and input from the partners on the applications. There were two handouts provided 1) FIP: Solicitation Process table, and 2) the work plan tables that were submitted with the second application.

Lacey Moore – Outreach: Due to not having an educational outreach coordinator, GRMW only participated in six educational activities at school events and the watershed festival in Union County and Wallowa County this year. There are four issues a year of our Ripples in the Grande Ronde Newsletter. There will be a transition this coming year moving away from public outreach to focusing on landowners as part of the atlas process. She is working on a landowner brochure for the landowners in the high priority areas. Katie Frenyea with the USWCD has helped draft the atlas outreach plan and also had input on the landowner brochure.

Mason Bailie – Step-Wise Process: There have been a few updates this year in addition to the Atlas. Within the solicitation process, there have been modifications. The solicitation date has been change to March 1st and the Board will review the project proposals in June. He updated the website adding the step-wise process for the atlas; updated the prospectus; and the proposals formats.

Jesse Steele – Project Update Union County Side: He showed drone footage and gave an update on the following 2015 projects: 1) Catherine Creek 44 Phase III Smith-USWCD Project, 2) Catherine Creek 44 Phase III Southern Cross-CTUIR & USWCD Project, 3) Five Points Creek Large Woody Debris and Planting – La Grande Ranger District Project, and 4) Meadow Creek Phase IIIA (water developments)-La Grande Ranger District. He stated that two projects are not completed: 1) ODFW's Fly Creek Fencing Project is waiting on environmental compliance before moving forward, and 2) CTUIR's Rock Creek Project Phase III. They are in the process of securing engineering services to complete design work.

Coby Menton – Project Update Wallowa County Side: Coby reported that there are effective partnerships from diverse organizations in Wallowa County focusing on aquatic restoration projects. There is a diversity of funding sources on the projects. He showed a power point presentation on three diversion projects in Lostine: Lostine Diversion, Sheep Ridge Diversion, and the Tulley-Hill Diversion. He spoke about the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) Chinook Telemetry Project. The NPT captures adult Chinook at the bottom of the Lostine River and they are tagged and released. The diversion structures have antennas with trackers on them to record when the fish come by. This helps them to know how long it takes a fish to get past the diversion structures. The data gathered will help determine the effectiveness of the projects. He mentioned the Lostine Minimum Flow Agreement that is led by The Freshwater Trust (TFT). There are five canal companies and seventy irrigators involved in this agreement. This is funded by the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP). Coby and Caylin Barter, TFT, helped answer questions from the group.

Restoration Atlas: Mason Bailie mentioned that he has put all the Atlas information in a database that is accessible on the web site. He will speak with BPA on additional information that may be needed on the website. Logon information will be available soon for the Implementation Team and others. Jesse Steele shared power point pictures of the Catherine Creek Atlas area and the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas area. He indicated that their focus is on CC3A and CC3B1 in tier 1 in the Catherine Creek Atlas. Some of the Catherine Creek landowners have been contacted. The opportunity (project) list and the list of rankings are not complete yet for the Upper Grande Ronde. They do know where their high priority areas are and that will be their focus. The Forest Service has 90% of the land in the Upper Grande Ronde in which the La Grande Ranger District will be a big partner.

Wallowa and Imnaha Subbasins Atlas: Coby Menton reported that GRMW submitted an OWEB FIP Capacity Building application. This will help to start the atlas process in Wallowa County. The application is called Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership for \$83,490. There should be a decision by the end of January 2016 if the application was approved. The funding would be for two years. This will cover the atlas in the Wallowa and Imnaha Subbasins. The in-kind cost share partners are: GRMW, NPT, ODFW, TFT, Forest Service, Wallowa Resources and Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee (WCNRAC). The Upper Grande Ronde Atlas and the Catherine Creek Atlas will be models for the Wallowa and Imnaha Subbasin Atlas.

Heidi McRoberts, Deputy Director, Watershed Administration, Nez Perce Tribe: Heidi mentioned that she has worked for the Nez Perce Tribe for 18 years. She started out being a biologist in 1997 and moved on to the Deputy Director position. She showed a power point presentation with a briefing of the Nez Perce Fisheries organization and their history of their watershed program. The NPT Watershed Program began in 1997 in Idaho and started in Wallowa County in 2003. She also shared photos of restoration projects. They have a holistic restoration approach ridge-top to ridge-top. She shared their history and future work in NE Oregon.

Eric Quaempts, Director, Department of Natural Resources, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Co-Chair, OWEB Board of Directors: Eric reported that he has been the Director for 10 years now before that he was a wildlife biologist working for CTUIR. He gave a power point presentation on how they do habitat restoration in contents of the First Foods recognized by the tribal community. He explained who is served in a traditional tribal meal and how they relate it to the broad ecological restoration goals and how they use it to bring attention to the foods and the processes that support them. So they can be responsive to the Tribes culture. The order to the traditional serving of the first foods is 1) water, 2) salmon, 3) deer, 4) cous and 5) huckleberry. In January of 2007, CTUIR

Department of Natural Resources adopted the following mission: “To protect, restore, and enhance the First Foods – water, salmon, deer, cous, and huckleberry – for the perpetual cultural, economic, and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR. We will accomplish this utilizing traditional ecological and cultural knowledge and science to inform: 1) population and habitat management goals and actions; and 2) natural resource policies and regulatory mechanisms.” Their River Vision: “The Umatilla basin includes a healthy river capable of providing First Foods that sustain the continuity of the Tribe’s culture. This vision requires a river that is dynamic, and shaped not only by physical and biological processes, but the interactions and interconnections between those processes.” The vision has five touchstones: hydrology, connectivity, geomorphology, riparian vegetation and aquatic biota. The actions are the restoration and monitoring activities. The Umatilla River Vision white paper is an attachment to file.

Eric mentioned that he has been on the OWEB Board since 2009 and his term will end in 2017. The updates for the past year have been to reorganize the program areas: such as, technical services, business operations, and policy group. In October, the Board awarded 47 grants approving close to \$7 million dollars in the open solicitation program. He spoke more on the FIP process. From 1998 to 2014, OWEB had \$41 million in projects in the Grande Ronde Basin. OWEB has a new grant program manager, Eric Williams.

Karl Weist, Fish & Wildlife Policy Analyst, Northwest Power & Conservation Council (NPCC): Karl has worked for NPCC for 22 years. He showed a power point presentation and spoke in depth on the NPCC, Model Watersheds, and the Umbrella Projects. The NPCC was created in 1980 in response to three major events 1) inaccurate regional energy planning, 2) uncertainty over future access to federal hydro, and 3) failing salmon runs in the Snake River. NPCC covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. They are funded by BPA, but are not part of BPA. Their principal duties are power, public involvement, and fish and wildlife. The NPCC established model watersheds in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. GRMWP was created in 1992 as Oregon’s model watershed. GRMWP is currently an “umbrella” project.

Jeff McLaughlin, Habitat Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation: Jeff gave a power point presentation on Reclamation FCRPS BiOp Tributary Habitat Program. Jeff works in the Columbia/Snake Salmon Recovery Office (CSRO) out of Boise. Darrell Dyke, Engineer, and Al Simpson, Biologist, are their subbasin liaisons located in the BOR office in La Grande. Their emphasis is on the Upper Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek here in the basin. They can work in Wallowa County as well. BOR provides technical services: design, technical writer, boundary surveys, coordination, project management, legal help, hydraulic modeling, planning, research, and monitoring. Upcoming activities that will affect GRMW and the basin are the new BiOp, expert panel, Grande Ronde Program long term, and funding opportunities for sponsors. He went over the subbasin efforts: partnerships, coordination, drones, data management and funding.

Brett Moore, Senior Engineer for Anderson Perry and Associates (AP): Brett stated that the Union County Farm Bureau held an annual meeting and had a guest speaker from the Water Resources Department (WRD) that spoke on different grant programs. One of those grant programs was the place-based integrated resource. After the meeting, Brett was approached by Mark Davidson, Union County Commissioner. Mark stressed that there is a need in the county to look at the place-based integrated water resource and the county’s water resources and use. He asked Brett if Anderson Perry would help with the application. The place-based integrated water resource grant program is based on the Statewide integrated water resource plan that is being put together. WRD has an idea of having a collaborated integrated plan on how to manage all the water resources in the State. WRD decided to fund pilot projects. The legislator set aside \$750,000 for across the State to fund pilot projects for place-

based planning. If the pilot projects work, it could lead to developing an integrated water resource strategy. WRD is looking at awarding two to four grants. The letters of interest were due on December 7, 2015. They received 16 letters of interest/applications across the State. By their February meeting, they will have recommendations for funding the two to four grants. Mark would like to have one place that would hold all the water quality and quantity bases information from all the water resources. This will help to identify the water resources; identify the gaps; and to identify the strategies to fill the gaps. We will need to identify the partners. The study is the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed. There will be open public meetings held by Union County. Brett will be helping the County in the planning process and the partners in the implementation process. The Union County Farm Bureau and GRMW have endorsed this with letters of support. Brett stated that Union County received nine letters by the sponsors and Jack Howard stated that those letters will be posted on the Union County website.

Caylin Barter, Director of Flow Restoration Program for The Freshwater Trust: Caylin stated that they have been working in the Grande Ronde Basin for four to five years intensively. They have been involved in the Restoration Atlas process the last two years. They do on-the-ground restoration projects in Oregon. She gave a power point presentation on the flow restoration. Their flow restoration tools are leasing, transfers, and other water use agreements. Their mission is “to preserve and restore our freshwater ecosystems.” The Freshwater Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that was founded in 1983. Their headquarters are located in Portland. Under the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP), TFT is one of the eleven qualified local entities to negotiate deals with water right holders on flow-limited streams. The Oregon Water Rights Act allows TFT to do their work and allows them to change the beneficial use of the water right. Caylin stated that TFT is a wild fish organization and all their work is geared towards improving the conditions for anadromous fish.

Closing Comments by Ted Taylor and Jeff Oveson: Jeff showed his appreciation to the guest speakers and thanked everyone for coming. Ted reported the next Board meeting will be held in Elgin on February 23, 2016, 5:00 p.m. at the Elgin Community Center. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendance:

Board Members: Ted Taylor, Allen Childs, Larry Cribbs, Nick Myatt, Joe McCormack, Katie Frenyea, Jed Hassinger, Jim Lauman, Norm Cimon, and Jack Howard.

Others: Karl Weist (NPCC), Jeff McLaughlin (BOR), Heidi McRoberts (NPT), Jake Kimbro (CTUIR), Caylin Barter (TFT), Eric Quaempts (CTUIR/OWEB), Montana Pagano (NPT), Mitch Daniel (NPT), Al Simpson (BOR), Callianne Harris (BOR), Katie Lee Fisher (BOR), Les Naylor (CTUIR), and Brett Moore (AP).

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