

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
November 8, 2016 @ 5:00 pm
Elgin Community Center
Elgin, OR**

Ted Taylor, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Ted announced that he will not be renewing his term as Board Member. He has personal matters that require his attention. Allen Childs and Jeff Oveson thanked him for his contribution to the Board and expressed that he would be missed.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes and Meeting Agenda: The August 23, 2016, meeting minutes were approved. The proposed meeting agenda was approved.

Proposed Projects: Project proposals were mailed out prior to the Board meeting.

Cross Country Canal Barrier (GRMW/NPT): Coby Menton presented this project. This project is in partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe to construct a fish barrier on the Cross Country Canal which provides supplemental water to the Lower Lostine River and Bear Creek. The barrier would be to prevent fish from entering the ditch. Fish entering the ditch are at risk of being stranded when the ditch is dewatered. The other end of the ditch has an existing suitable fish screen. Staff recommendation was to fund. Dave Yost moved to approve the project proposal, Larry Nall seconded and the motion carried.

Tulley Hill Fish Passage Improvement (GRMW/NPT): Coby presented this project. It proposes to replace an existing fishway with a roughened channel to provide year-round fish passage and other geomorphic benefits. Staff recommendation is to fund as proposed. Dave Yost brought up concerns about funding projects that serve flood irrigation systems and asked whether the project would be compatible with a switch to more efficient irrigation systems. Mitch responded that it wouldn't preclude irrigation efficiency improvements. Nick Myatt asked if there was usually a contingency line in the budget and whether we should define what the contingency is for? He expressed discomfort with unallocated money in the budget and where it would ultimately go. Larry Nall moved to approve the project proposal and Nick Myatt seconded, the motion carried contingent on all sources of funding being secured.

Meadow Creek Effectiveness Monitoring (PNW Lab): Jesse Steele presented this project. This would fund a summer field crew to perform effectiveness monitoring in the Starkey Experimental Forest. This project ranked high among the Implementation Team. Staff's recommendation is to fund as proposed. Jed Hassinger asked if pre-project monitoring was done. Jesse clarified that pre-project monitoring had not been done for some of the small mammals and pollinators. Joe Platz clarified that pre-project monitoring had not happened for phase 1 of the large wood placement but had for phase 2. Larry Nall asked if this funding was just for data retrieval, or for analysis as well. Jesse confirmed that this was just for

monitoring/data retrieval, and that analysis was already funded. Allen asked if we will continue to see these proposals for monitoring. Jesse responded that they hope to have 10-15 years of monitoring so yes they will continue to submit funding proposals for monitoring. Jeff Oveson mentioned that it is a line item in the FIP. Susan Roberts moved to approve the project proposal, Nick Myatt seconded, and the motion carried.

Beaver Creek Fish Passage (City of La Grande): Jesse presented this project. The Board has seen this before but now the City of La Grande has secured the cost share funding. The Implementation Team had concerns about the fish screens being slated for phase 2 or 3. Staff recommendation is to fund as proposed. Larry Nall asked if funding could be contingent on fish screens being concurrent with the passage project? Jesse thought this would delay the project a year or more. There was discussion about the reservoir being a backup water source and since the City was not set up to pull water from the reservoir, the fish screens might be less of a concern. Jeff Oveson thought if the City did start to use that water, they would send it down Beaver Creek in to the Grande Ronde River and pull the water from there making it unlikely that the fish screens would be of much concern. Dave Yost moved to approve the project proposal, Susan Roberts seconded, and the motion carried.

Upper Grande Ronde Culvert Replacements (Forest Service): This project was presented by Jesse. The project proposes to replace 3 culverts in the UGR that are currently fish passage barriers with bottomless arch culverts. Staff recommendation is to fund as proposed. Joe Platz said these 3 culverts were highest priority that could be done right now. Larry asked if it was worth a third of the money to open up just a mile of habitat on the tributary of the W. Fork Chicken Creek. Allen mentioned that connecting habitat is always important even if you're uncertain of the fish use on the small tributaries. Nick Myatt moved to approve the project proposal, Joe McCormack seconded, and the motion carried.

Fence Maintenance within Upper Grande Ronde (Forest Service): This project was presented by Jesse. They propose to maintain fences along 21 miles of stream to protect from livestock grazing. Staff's recommendation is to fund as proposed. Nick Myatt asked if the permit holders are required to maintain the fence. Joe Platz said that it varied by contract but it was still useful for them to be able to maintain fence before and after grazing. Dave Yost moved to approve the project proposal, Larry Nall seconded, and the motion carried.

Upper Grande Ronde Large Wood Procurement (Forest Service): This project was presented by Jeff Oveson. Due to uncertainty on the Forest Service part as to whether they could follow through on this and BPA's uncertainty whether it was legal, the decision is in limbo and will likely be made by BPA. ~~BPA and Forest Service lawyers will consider this and make a decision.~~

OWEB Focused Investment Program Update:

FIP Implementation: Jeff Oveson spoke about the challenges of matching OWEB FIP and BPA funds and said that the FIP Core Partners are making good progress. He then referred the Board to a spreadsheet in their meeting packet (attachment to file). Four projects for which GRMW expects proposals in spring of 2017. Bird Track Springs, UGR. Opportunity Lead (OL) is CTUIR. Projects on Catherine Creek are Hall Ranch (OL ODFW), CC 42 (OL CTUIR), CC38 (OL USWCD) Each of these projects will have significant OWEB FIP investment, most will also have BPA investment.

FIP Capacity-Building: Coby Menton reported that in Wallowa County, they had their first Atlas meeting [facilitated/overseen](#) by Dave Kaplowe from BPA. Coby mentioned that Alex Borgerding had done an excellent job putting together a web app with all pertinent information for the initial Atlas meeting. They have cancelled the second meeting to allow the working group sufficient time to put together sub-basin and periodicity data for the team to review and for Alex to do the mapping. The next Wallowa County Atlas meeting will be held on December 8th.

Partner Reports:

Union Soil and Water Conservation District: Katie Frenyea reported that Grande Ronde 109 project was completed. Working on potential irrigation efficiency and habitat project on Catherine Creek [38 with multiple landowners](#).

CTUIR: Allen Childs reported that they are completing planting and mulching on CC44 and finishing up design on Rock Creek [Project](#).

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife: Nick Myiatt reported that he has been working on [Union County](#) place-based planning effort. Collen Fagan reported that Hall Ranch 15% designs were almost complete and that they have advertised bids for the Wallowa Baker project.

Nez Perce Tribe: Joe McCormack reported progress on the Tamkaliks project. Bridge over the Wallowa was completed with Oregon State Park funds and OWEB TA funds have been contracted to design a proposed side channel restoration project; a second bridge will be installed over the side channel. [providing access between Tamkaliks and City of Wallowa](#). Mitch reported that the Sheep [Bridge Diversion Fish Passage](#) project was completed on time, to specifications and on budget. Emmit Taylor, Watershed Division Director for the Nez Perce Tribe and Lynn Palensky from the NW Power [and Conservation](#) Council visited this project in late September and were very impressed with the project. [Aan](#) article was published on the power council website about the [project](#). Mitch also mentioned collaboration with Washington Fish and Wildlife on Buford creek to benefit steelhead moving up the creek into Oregon.

Forest Service: Joe Platz reported that Five Points phase 3 was half way through planting and will be completed in the spring. Two culvert replacements on Sheep Creek completed, one funded by CTUIR and one by GRMW. Dark Canyon project completed.

Staff Report: The staff report was provided in the packets (attachment to file).

Public Participation: Opportunity offered.

Next Few Meetings: Annual Meeting will be held on December 13th in Cove at the Ascension Kimsey Commons at 9:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned. A closed executive session was held to discuss job performance ORS 192.660(I)(i).

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 Attendance:

Board Members/Alternates: Ted Taylor, Dave Yost, Larry Nall, Mitch Daniel, Nick Myatt, Susan Roberts, Katie Frenyea, Jed Hassinger, Norm Cimon, Joe McCormack, and Allen Childs.

Others: Joe Platz (Forest Service), Joe Vacirca (Forest Service), and Collen Fagan (ODFW).

Staff: Jeff Oveson, Coby Menton, Jesse Steele, Connor Stone, Jessica Phelps and Alex Borgerding.