

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
August 23, 2016 @ 5:15 pm
Alpine Meadows Golf Course Clubhouse
Enterprise OR**

Ted Taylor, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Prior to the meeting, there was a project tour of the 6 Ranch Habitat Restoration Phase II Project hosted by Liza Jane McAlister, 6 Ranch owner.

Meet New GRMW Employees: Jeff Oveson introduced the three new staff members: Jessica Phelps, the Restoration Outreach Coordinator, is working in a shared position with The Freshwater Trust and GRMW. She will be working on the Catherine Creek Irrigation Feasibility Study, outreach and GIS; Connor Stone took over Mason Bailie's position as the IT/Database Manager. He graduated as the top student in the Computer Sciences Program at EOU; and Alex Borgerding took over Lacey Moore's position as the GIS Specialist and Outreach Coordinator. Jessica mentioned that she attended the University of Oregon and received a Master's Degree in Environmental Geography with the emphasis on Fluvial Geomorphology/River Restoration/GIS. She worked as a Program Coordinator on the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center; and before coming to Eastern Oregon, she worked on the Diggin' Roots Organic Farm in Molalla. Before attending Eastern Oregon University in the Computer Sciences Program, Connor was in the Air Force for four years. He is married to Hannah and they have a 11-month old daughter, Kiona. Alex is originally from Imnaha, Wallowa County. She attended Portland State University receiving a degree in Arts of Geography. One year ago, she moved to La Grande and received a certificate in GIS through the Oregon State University. She will be the main GIS support working on the Wallowa Atlas.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes and Meeting Agenda: Ted Taylor reported that Jeff Oveson sent out an email to Board Members and Staff in July regarding a statement from the May 24, 2016, meeting minutes under the Discussion on BOR FOA Selection; Oveson stated that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) were helping Trout Unlimited (TU) fund an office in Pendleton or La Grande or both places. Jeff was reporting what he was told that by a person he believed was passing along factual information. Since the May Board Meeting, he found out that was not true, the CTUIR is not helping fund an office for Trout Unlimited. Larry Cribbs moved to approve the May 24, 2016, meeting minutes; Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried. The August 23, 2016, meeting agenda was approved by consensus (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for August, September and October were provided in the Board packets (attachment to file). Nick Myatt reported that on Friday, October 7, 2016, there will be an ODFW Commission Meeting at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in La Grande at 8:00 a.m. The agenda is not ready for distribution. There will be a field tour on Thursday, October 6, 2016, this will take place in the Starkey Experimental Forest and the Meadow Creek project looking at the wildlife research projects and fish habitat projects. These are open to the public.

Review of the La Grande Ranger District's Wood Procurement NEPA Prospectus: An email along with the prospectus and notes were emailed out to the Board for review and was provided in the Board packets (attachment to file). Jesse Steele stated that in the past the Board has not reviewed the project prospectuses since that was the Implementation Team's (IT) responsibility. In the Implementation guidelines, it does state that IT can request the Board to review the prospectuses. The IT met in July and

requested that the Board review and make the decision first on this prospectus before moving forward to a proposal. The La Grande Ranger District (LRD) is seeking Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds to conduct NEPA work that would allow for the procurement (location, marking and NEPA) of 5000 trees of varying sizes and species from public land. The trees would be used to implement three habitat projects in the Upper Grande Ronde. BPA met with LGRD in May and wanted them to accelerate the restoration projects in the Upper Grande Ronde for the next two years. As a result, to the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas, most of the tier 1 areas in the Upper Grande Ronde are in the headwaters on Forest Service property. There is also OWEB FIP Funds earmarked for habitat restoration projects in this area. Board Members and others discussed the prospectus in length. Board Members shared their concerns about that there needs to be a guarantee that they will find 5000 trees with the \$80,000 in BPA funds. The LGRD will be identifying the 5000 trees by marking them for the future projects, not cutting them down with these funds. There were concerns about the LGRD going directly to BPA and not communicating with GRMW keeping them in the loop. Sarah Brandy, LGRD Fisheries Biologist, is on the Implementation Team. She stated that she will work at maintaining good communications between LGRD staff and GRMW staff. Project proposals will be reviewed at the November Board meeting. Nick Myatt moved to approve that the prospectus move forward to a proposal. Within the proposal, it will need to show the availability of the 5000 trees and an estimated cost on the transportation of the trees. Mark Davidson seconded, and the motion carried.

OWEB Focused Investment Program Update:

FIP Implementation: Jeff Oveson indicated that we should have a project status report at our next Board meeting or at the GRMW Annual Meeting. He provided the Board with a table on the pending FIP projects for the first biennium (attachment to file). There are eight projects listed: Bird Track Springs, CC38 Sheehy, Meadow Creek Monitoring Starkey, Whiskey Creek Highway 244 Culvert, Chicken Creek Culverts, Hall Ranch, PIT Tag Array Monitoring and Riparian Fence Maintenance. The Whiskey Creek Highway 244 Culvert project has been completely funded (\$300,000) by ODOT. OWEB is willing to transfer FIP funds from the Whiskey Creek project to a similar project(s) in the Upper Grande Ronde. Andrew Dutterer, OWEB FIP Coordinator, is supportive in moving the funds; but, we still need to consult with our core partners and develop proposals.

FIP Capacity-Building: Coby Menton reported that in Wallowa County, there will be five atlas meetings between October 27, 2016, and March 1, 2017. Dave Kaplowe, BPA, and Jesse Steele are leading these meetings. Thirteen of the core partners have indicated that they will participate in the meetings. Jesse mentioned that after the last meeting, they will be working on the project opportunities i.e., mapping. Jeff Oveson stated that Tracy Hauser, BPA, is trying to secure more funding in Wallowa County; and she is looking for design money.

Partner Reports:

Union Soil and Water Conservation District: Katie Frenyea indicated that Grande Ronde 109 project is funded by OWEB and designed by Anderson Perry. Solicitation for bids are out. This will be the last phase of CC44. Construction could start this Fall. She mentioned that Joe Smietana has taken another job as project manager for Joe Partney Construction and his last day will be in mid-September with USWCD.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife: Colleen Fagan stated that they have received \$300,000 in BPA funds and \$203,000 in the McNary Fisheries Mitigation Funds through GRMW for the Wallowa-Baker Habitat Restoration Project in Wallowa County. They are hoping to break ground this coming Spring.

OWEB: Karen Leiendecker reported that the OWEB online applications for outreach, restoration, monitoring, and technical assistance projects are due November 1, 2016. On October 25 & 26, 2016, in Ashland, the OWEB Board will be reviewing project applications that were submitted in April. The Regional Review Team will be meeting on December 13 & 14 in Ontario. She stated that the Wallowa County project applications that were submitted will do fairly well in the process.

Nez Perce Tribe: Mitch Daniel mentioned that on the Lostine River Sheep Ridge Diversion project, there will be a fish salvage on September 7th and breaking ground on September 8th. This project should be completed by the end of September.

Tetra Tech is working on the designs for the Tulley-Hill Diversion Project. NPT, GRMW, TFT, and ODFW have been involved since the beginning. They have 60% of the design work completed. NPT has submitted a prospectus for Tulley-Hill to GRMW and the Board will review the project proposal at their next meeting. NPT submitted a technical assistance application to OWEB for Tamkalik, a side channel project on the Wallowa River. Mitch indicated that they have 30% design work done on a Buford Creek project. Anderson Perry is working with them on this. They will be receiving full funding from a Barrier Board out of Washington.

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

Public Participation: Opportunity offered.

Next Few Meetings: There will not be an October Board Meeting. The Board will meet on November 8th in Elgin at the Community Center at 5:00 p.m. to review project proposals. Their Annual Meeting will be held on December 13th in Cove at the Ascension's Kimsey Commons Conference Room starting at 9:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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, Mark Davidson, Katie Frenyea, Jed Hassinger, Norm Cimon, Larry Cribbs, and Gene Hardy.

Others: Marianne Yost, Montana Pagano (Nez Perce Tribe), Karen Leiendecker (OWEB), Colleen Fagan (ODFW), Chas Hutchins (Anderson Perry), Teija Hutchins, Sarah Brandy (LRD), Jadon Herron (Anderson Perry), Shelley Cimon, Sam Humphreys, Hannah and Kiona Stone.

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