

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
October 23, 2012 – 5:00 p.m.
Wallowa Community Center, Wallowa OR**

Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Introductions followed.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Larry Cribbs moved to approve the August 28, 2012, meeting minutes; Norm Cimon seconded and the motion carried. The proposed meeting agenda for June 26, 2012, meeting was approved by consensus and no changes were made (attachments to file). Jeff Yanke introduced Kyle Bratcher who is the new assistant district fish biologist for Wallowa.

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for October, November and December were provided (attachment to file). The Atlas Kick Off was added to the Calendar for November 14 and the listening session hosted by OWEB was added on the November 15.

New Topics:

Update on BPA Budget: Timmie Mandish gave a update on the status of the BPA budget situation because it has changed in the last few years. Mandish mentioned the changes the GRMW staff has had to go through, and asked if anyone had questions. Yanke asked for clarification on why cuts were being made. Mandish informed the board that the spot market electricity because of the price of natural gas has decreased the cost of electricity. The last BPA budget projection underfunded business operation due to the drop in natural gas. Also, The 20% buffer on project tracking was exceeded this past year and that also put BPA over budget on projects. This year the budget will finish out, but the 2013 fiscal year has to make-up for 2012 budget short falls. Cribbs asked if budget cuts were across the board at BPA. Mandish answered that Fish and Wildlife projects saw the smallest cuts because of legal obligations, but yes cuts were across the board. Hayward asked if all cuts to GRMW's project budget were monitory and how all of BPA thought about GRMW as a program? Wanted to know if BPA still supported GRMW and it mission? Mandish answered that BPA maintains that GRMW has been the hub for the GR basin with emphasis on CC and UPGR projects. Mandish said, as far as she knows everyone at BPA prefers the work the GRMW is doing with coordination and projects. Jeff Oveson acknowledged the work of Mandish and keeping our program together between the two counties even though Wallowa is not highest priority for projects. Mandish mentioned the Atlas and how it will help with project funding. The Atlas will be partially presented at the annual meeting.

Budget Update: Oveson talked about the change in budget at GRMW and some of the past influence on GRMW's budget allocations, where we are and where we were. Bill Maslin came to the May, 2010 meeting and said, add two new positions to the staff and go out and get the work done. GRMW's budget just increased dramatically. Rosie came to GRMW in July, 2012 to talk about budgets and let us know our budget was cut by over

\$2 million because of fiscal constraints. Rosie asked about Anderson, Perry and how much we invoiced BPA for their services. Now we are trying to reduce some of the design budget with Anderson, Perry, and we have. Mandish mentioned that BPA has had major budget changes since 2010 and now BPA needs a commitment that projects funded will receive Bi-OP credits. There are more credits issued for projects that involve both Chinook and steelhead, but BPA has more of a deficit for Chinook projects in certain basins. There was some discussion on when Tech team should be involved with projects to ultimately save money and time. Board discussed that it is hard to mainstream all projects because there are some very unique projects that need more input. Lyle showed the board how GRMW flows through projects and how staff has made an effort to cut costs on projects and delayed low priority projects until the following year. For the 2012 year GRMW has cut costs by about \$204,000. See Attachments. Hopefully after the 2013 and 2014 fiscal year BPA will rebound and budgeting will revert to year prior to 2011 and 2012. The restoration atlas should help understanding project priority, benefits, and coordination between partners. There is also some confusion of when tech committee should become involved and how often.

Audit Report: An audit report was sent out to the audit committee, which consists of Norm Cimon, Mike Hayward, and Bruce Eddy. There will be some changes made to how GRMW keeps track of records, communications, and how money is spent. Hayward mentioned that we want to make sure we are being consistent with all contracting procedures and making sure to follow state law. There will be a larger presentation at the annual meeting with the auditor. Hayward let the board know the audit was not perfect, but there were not any large problems.

Staff Report: See attachment. A meeting was held to plan the Upper Grande Ronde TA. The TA will start at the confluence of the Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek and go upstream until Vey Meadows, skipping parts of the river with restricted access. This TA will go faster than the TA on Catherine Creek. The Upper Grande Ronde TA will include a habitat assessment, physical assessment of the whole river, more understanding of fish tracking, PHAB sim models, and rapid site assessment for the Grande Ronde Green Way. The TA will help restoration partners understand fish usage and how the Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek influence each other.

Project Update: Oveson covered the following projects in the written staff report: Catherine Creek Baum Habitat Restoration and the Wilson Wetland Recovery. Coby Menton Covered the Cross Country Canal and the Lostine projects, which are both completed. Coby mentioned how Lindley went over and above the call of duty to help please the neighbors and landowners. Lyle talked about projects that will be coming up at the planning session. (See attachment) Lyle mentioned that some of the figures may change by the time of the planning session.

Mason Bailie provided an updated Project Status Report (PSR) (attachment to file).

Public Participation: None.

Next Board Meeting: The next scheduled Board meeting will be the annual planning session held on December 11, 2012, at Kimsey Commons in Cove from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. 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 6:48 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: Mike Hayward, Ted Taylor, Mikayla Frei, Emily Spang, Larry Cribbs, Jeff Yanke, and Norm Cimon.

Others: Timmie Mandish and Kyle Bratcher.

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