

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed  
Board of Director's Annual Planning Session  
December 10, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.  
Ascension School's Kimsey Commons  
Cove OR**

**Introductions & Agenda Review:** Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions followed. A revised agenda was provided (attachment to file).

**General Update:** The project proposal review has been delayed until the January 28, 2014, Board meeting. Lyle Kuchenbecker stated that with the Government shutdown, site visits and technical review were a month later than planned. The technical committee has given critiques of the project proposals so the applicants are in the process of revising their proposals. The project proposals are due December 17, 2013, at GRMW office. There will be seven project proposals to review at the Board meeting.

**Staff Update:** Coby Menton reported that he has been reviewing OWEB project proposals. He attended the OWEB Regional Review Team meeting on December 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed several project proposals. The Grande Ronde Basin applicants fared the best in the technical assistant category. Each of those project proposals had a funding cap of \$50,000. For our basin, four projects were fundable: Wallowa County-Whiskey Creek Fish Passage (5<sup>th</sup> ranked); Wallowa County-Lick Creek Fish Passage (4<sup>th</sup> ranked); Upper Imnaha-Grouse Creek Replacement of Diversion Structure (2<sup>nd</sup> Ranked); Sheep Ridge Diversion Structure Replacement on the Lostine River (1<sup>st</sup> Ranked). These projects ranged from \$35,000 to \$40,000 in OWEB requests. GRMW will probably receive around \$80,000 for technical assistance through OWEB. There were two habitat restoration projects that were fundable in this basin: one for Union Soil and Water Conservation District and the other for Wallowa Resources.

Jesse Steele stated that he has been preparing to start the Upper Grande Ronde River Restoration Atlas. This has involved going back and reading reports and gathering data. Lacey Moore and Ted Sedell have been assisting Jesse. He is also continuing his work with Idaho Power on the Catherine Creek Wilson project.

Leigh Collins mentioned that she and GRMW staff has reached 2000 students and 500 adults in the educational outreach activities. The stream trailer has been out eight times. She is working on the fourth issues of the Ripples newsletter for this year. Leigh has joined the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan (OELP). They held their first meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Portland. Amy Busch, Wallowa Resources in Enterprise, and Johanna Sedell, Power Basin Watershed Council in Baker City, are working with Leigh on a literacy three county outreach database. Jeff Oveson has appointed her to be on the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. She is also involved in the tributary assessment.

Jeff Oveson indicated that Emmit Taylor, Nez Perce Tribe, spoke at the August Board meeting regarding two positions that they wanted to hire for their coordination project. The ISRP gave this an unfavorable review as part of the Geographic Review. Emmit has since revised and will resubmit the proposal by the end of this calendar year. The proposal will go through the ISRP and Council review again. They should have an answer in April. Jeff believes that Emmit will be at our January Board meeting for the review of project proposals. Emmit has stated that the Nez Perce Tribe will be participating in the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Atlas.

GRMW's primary focus is no longer the implementation of projects. The NPCC felt it was a conflict of interest because GRMW held the funds, solicited project proposals and recommended projects for funding, including projects sponsored by GRMW. GRMW with the help of BPA are now reconstructing what they do and are working on new job descriptions/responsibilities for staff. Jeff has three programmatic things in mind: 1) an improved method of prioritizing investment; 2) to bring in more significant amounts of non-BPA cost share; and 3) GRMW will be adding value to other programs such as Allen Childs' CTUIR Project, Ted Sedell's CHaMP Project, USWCD's Program, and Colleen Fagen, ODFW, by helping fill in the holes where needed. The project sponsors will oversee the implementation of the projects.

**Partnership between CTUIR & GRMW:** Allen Childs, CTUIR, gave a PowerPoint presentation (attachment is filed electronically). Partnerships are very important and GRMW is the center of the partnerships here. He indicated that GRMW has been involved in 34 projects with CTUIR. There was 40 miles of habitat enhancement worked on. Besides GRMW helping with the funding of projects, there is a lot of GRMW staff assistance in different areas to get the projects on the ground. He highlighted some of the projects such as: McCoy Meadows, End Creek, Willow Creek, CC37 and CC44. Troy Abercrombie shared his concern about not having much improvement in fish populations after all the projects that have taken place and the money that was invested. Lyle Kuchenbecker responded that it takes many years to have the projects develop farther along on their own and for the fish populations to gain in numbers. Timmie Mandish indicated that there are many different factors that improve fish populations.

**Nick Myatt, ODFW:** Nick is a new Board member of GRMW. He replaced Bruce Eddy on GRMW Board and at ODFW as the Grande Ronde Watershed District Manager. Bruce's new position at ODFW is the Northeast Region Manager. Nick mentioned that he has a wildlife biologist and fisheries biologist background. He is originally from Minnesota and he went to college in Wisconsin and Arkansas. He worked at ODFW in Salem and Baker City before coming to La Grande in 2010. He administers the fish and wildlife programs in Union, Wallowa and Baker Counties and supervises the fish and wildlife biologists. He mentioned that Colleen Fagen replaced Vance McGowen. Vance is working for a private sector here in the basin. He highlighted some projects that ODFW and GRMW were involved in: CC44, Ladd Creek Highway 203, and the Wallowa Baker project in Wallowa County.

**Partnership between USWCD and GRMW:** Katie Frenyea, USWCD, gave a PowerPoint presentation (attachment is filed electronically). Katie stated that in 1946 the USWCD was established by Union County landowners. She highlighted a couple of projects. Partnerships on project CC44 and CC37 were USWCD, ODFW, CTUIR, GRMW and BPA. Project CC44 started in 2010 when USWCD was contacted by two landowners in which the landowners were having irrigation problems. There are now six landowners involved in this project. There are four miles of stream restoration. Project CC37 is funded by BPA and the CTUIR provides the cost share. She shared a video that was created by Jake Kimbro, CTUIR, that showed the metrics and snorkeling of the projects. Mike Hayward credited Katie for the current relationship that GRMW has with the USWCD.

**Partnership between BOR and GRMW:** Nate Krohn, BOR, gave a PowerPoint presentation (attachment is filed electronically). Reclamation provides technical oversight such as engineering designs, permits, construction observation, and working with clients. Project goals are to incorporate science into the projects to get the most benefit for the fish and to collaborate and coordinate with sponsors and partners. He highlighted project CC37. They worked with GRMW on a rapid site assessment on the Greenway project and are working on a tributary assessment with GRMW and others on the Upper

Grande Ronde. They have submitted Phase II of CC44 to BPA through GRMW. Darrell Dyke indicated that BOR has a list of future projects but are waiting for the completion of the Upper Grande Ronde Atlas. Norm Cimon asked who will be monitoring the projects and Ted Sedell stated that the CHaMPS program will be.

**Restoration Atlas Review:** Timmie Mandish, BPA, shared a PowerPoint presentation (attachment is filed electronically). She gave background information on the Atlas and an overview of the process. In 2008, the BiOp identified priority basins for additional restoration activities. Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde are the top priority areas which are in the Grande Ronde basin. The priority basins received additional funds to help reach the targets that were set. The Atlas is a process to help folks to be in the right place at the right time and to perform the right kind of work. Jeff Oveson indicated that staff will be taking an active role in the Atlas process and will keep the Board informed. Staff will give the Board recommendations, along with background information used to arrive at recommendations at the Board can make good decisions.

**OWEB Focused Investment Strategy:** Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB, stated that OWEB has three focused investments (currently called SIP's, or Strategic Investment Program) in the Deschutes at \$16 million, Willamette at \$12 million and the Klamath at \$1.2 million. With almost \$30 million invested, they have learned that partnerships are critical, funders need to be aligned, and that programs are established (for example the Atlas). Where are we headed? OWEB's Board met last June and discussed investing in four areas: operating capacity for funding watershed councils and districts, open solicitation in the grant program, effectiveness and project monitoring, and the focused investments. The OWEB Board wants to increase the funding in the focused investments. There will be a draft strategy plan for the focused investments out in March and the final in July. The solicitation process will be out in July for 2015. The overall grant programs funding for the biennium is about \$70 million mostly for open solicitation and focused investments. She indicated that in the focused investments, scale is the most important part along with partnerships.

**Lunch:** During lunch, Jeff Oveson, presented John Stephenson, USFWS, with a plaque/clock in appreciation of his work with GRMW. He also presented Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB, and Timmie Mandish, BPA, with a framed picture(s) of the "Fish Passage Projects for 2011-2012" created by Anderson-Perry and Associates.

**Mobile Application:** Mason Bailie and Lacey Moore, GRMW staff, are designing a mobile application (called GRMW Mobile) that is used with cell phones to get geospatial data collection on projects. The data collected is easily downloaded to GRMW's database. This is a great monitoring tool that will benefit GRMW and their partners. There are partners wanting to get the application for their cell phones. They showed a PowerPoint presentation on the application (attachment is filed electronically).

**CHaMP:** Ted Sedell, ODFW, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP) (attachment is filed electronically). Ted is the project leader for steelhead and habitat monitoring at the La Grande Research Station. CHaMP is a Bonneville Power Administration funded project. The basic design of CHaMP is to monitor aquatic habitat both the status and trends and the action effectiveness. The key is linking the habitat to the fish in helping to develop life cycle models. CHaMP is a standardized salmonid habitat status and trend monitoring program for steelhead and chinook across the Columbia River Basin by looking at all populations and the life cycles. They will be looking at macroinvertebrates as well.

**Board Discussion:**

Larry Cribbs was wondering why the Forest Service wasn't a partner in the partnership presentations today. Mike Hayward stated that the Forest Service has been on and off with their partnerships over the last few years. From his understanding, the Forest Service can't be part of a Board and staffing is an issue. Board members felt that the Forest Service should be involved and this should be looked into more. The Board will discuss this further with Jeff Oveson.

Mike Hayward thanked everyone for coming. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next scheduled Board meeting will be on January 28, 2014, in Wallowa at the Community Center at 5:00 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 on our website go to <http://www.grmw.org>.

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."

**Meeting Attendance:**

**Board Members/Alternates:** Mike Hayward, Mark Davidson, Bill Howell, Allen Childs, Troy Abercrombie, Larry Cribbs, Katie Frenyea, Dave Yost, Daryl Hawes, Nick Myatt and Norm Cimon.

**Others:** Meta Loftsgaarden, Lyle Kuchenbecker, Karen Leiendecker, Ted Sedell, Johanna Sedell, Timmie Mandish, Colleen Fagen, Darrell Dyke, Jeff McLaughlin, Nate Krohn, Jake Kimbro and John Stephenson.

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