

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
November 24, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.  
Wallowa Community Center – Wallowa**

Mike Hayward, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:** Ted Taylor moved to approve the August 25, 2015, meeting minutes; Allen Childs seconded, and the motion carried. The November 24, 2015, proposed agenda stood as presented (attachments to file).

**Calendar and Announcements:** November and December calendars were provided (attachment to file). Mike Hayward and Allen Childs indicated that they will be unable to attend the annual meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> due to other commitments. Allen will have one of his staff members attend.

**Review of Project Proposals:** Five project proposals were mailed out to the Board prior to the meeting. Jeff Oveson mentioned that the field reviews went well. The partners that submitted project proposals were responsive to the Implementation Team's concerns. Jesse Steele stated there is continued involvement in the monthly Union County Coordination (UCC) meetings from the partners. The Implementation Team meetings will continue to take place following the UCC meetings every third Thursday of the month. There were two handouts provided 1) September 2015 Project Solicitation that showed funding requests and 2) Implementation Team Review comments, ratings and ranking of the projects (attachments to file). Jesse went over the following six projects. He explained the changes that have taken place on CC44 since the original project proposal was submitted. CC44 project is now in several phases.

**Catherine Creek (CC44) Stream and Fish Habitat Restoration IV Southern Cross Year 2 Construction:**

The purpose of this project is to protect, enhance, and restore spawning and rearing habitat for spring-summer Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout and resident fishery resources, including freshwater mussels and Pacific lamprey. The sponsors, Union Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), are requesting an increase in funding for the project to support implementation of a larger scope effort to increase spawning and rearing habitat. The project is designed to be constructed in two stages. The 2015 construction will be the out-of-stream work and the 2016 construction will be the instream work. The Implementation Team rated the project high and ranked it number one. Their comments were that the project is in tier one highest priority area. It is a full restoration project on CTUIR's acquired land. The request for funding is \$830,550. The Implementation Team recommended to fund the project. Allen Childs indicated that the cost share/in-kind work would be the permitting and design funding from Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Ted Taylor moved to approve the project, Joe McCormack seconded, and the motion carried with one abstaining vote from Allen Childs because of his involvement with the project.

**Catherine Creek (CC44) Stream and Fish Habitat Restoration III Kinsley and Shoemaker:** The purpose of the project is to seek to restore .56 miles of Catherine Creek, through the installation of large wood structures, revegetation of degraded stream banks and long-term project protection, specifically a 15-year exclusion easement. The scope of the project and the requested funding have been decreased from the original project proposal. The Implementation Team rated the project high and ranked it number

two. Their comments were that it is in a tier one/highest priority area and it is a partial restoration project with limited activities. The Implementation Team wanted to see landowner agreements from both landowners. Kinsley will be signing an agreement with CTUIR and Shoemaker will with USWCD. It was mentioned that the USWCD improved the monitoring plan. The Implementation Team recommended to fund upon having the signed agreements. There is an in-kind/cost share from BOR. Project sponsor, USWCD, is requesting funding for \$284,762. Allen Childs moved to approve the project with a contingency to have a landowner agreement between Union SWCD and the Shoemakers and to have a conservation easement between CTUIR and Kinsley, Jed Hassinger seconded, and the motion carried.

**McCoy Creek Planting Large Wood and Fencing Project:** The project proposal was not mailed out to the Board. Jesse indicated that this project was originally combined with the Dark Canyon Creek project. The Implementation Team and Joe Platz, La Grande Ranger District, discussed this project further during the site visit; and Joe will resubmit a project proposal in the Fall of 2016 because he does not have time to develop the project into a more comprehensive restoration treatment due to a full schedule with other work.

**Dark Canyon Creek Fencing Project:** The project objective is to improve summer steelhead habitat, specifically through improving or increasing the habitat elements by improving the riparian and wetland diversity, vigor and function and to improve the floodplain function. They are proposing to install two miles of riparian fence and three spring developments. The Implementation Team rated this project medium and ranked it number three. Their comments were that there is a chronic problem with the nutrient loading and water quality. It is in a high priority area for steelhead and there are juvenile Chinook in the lower area of Dark Canyon Creek. The project sponsor, La Grande Ranger District, is requesting \$37,914. The Implementation Team recommended to fund the project. Jesse mentioned that there is a gap between this project area and a CTUIR project and that the Implementation Team made the recommendation to Joe Platz, La Grande Ranger District, to develop a project in the gap that would protect and enhance the stream. The Board and staff discussed this project in depth. There were concerns related to the future maintenance and effectiveness of the proposed fence. It was suggested to delay the decision to fund or not because they need further discussion with the permittee and Joe Platz. A small subcommittee (Allen Childs, Tim Bailey and Ted Taylor) was formed to meet with the permittee and Joe in mid-December. Joe will be asked to bring the project proposal back to the GRMW's February Board meeting.

**East Sheep FS Road 5184 Culvert Replacement Project:** The project objectives are to 1) improve passage for steelhead, chinook and bull trout; 2) improve natural flow pattern; and 3) reduce the risk of culvert failure. The Implementation Team rated this project high and ranked it number four. Their comments were that the project is in a high priority area; there is only a partial barrier and that an erosion problem is developing. La Grande Ranger District is requesting \$89,778 in Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds for one culvert. There is no cost share towards this one culvert. There are five culverts being replaced at the same time. CTUIR and La Grande Ranger District will be funding the other culverts. Ted Taylor moved to approve the project, Joe McCormack seconded, and the motion carried.

**PLANTSKYDD Riparian Spray Project:** The objective is to improve spring/summer chinook habitat, summer steelhead habitat and bull trout habitats by improving 1) the riparian and wetland diversity, vigor and function, 2) the floodplain function, 3) the water capture, storage and safe release within the floodplain and 4) the stream shade and temperatures. The Forest Service is looking at alternatives to use

besides the pods. While looking for alternatives, they found this organic spray. The Forest Service would like to spray 7.5 miles of the Upper Grande Ronde River, Chicken and West Chicken Creeks, and Sheep Creek with the PLANTSKYDD which is an organic spray developed in Sweden to prevent wild ungulate browse. The spray would need to be applied three times a year for two years in the riparian area. There has been research done on the spray. Depending on which study you look at the percentage of effectiveness ranges from 40% to 60% effective. The Implementation Team rated this project medium and ranked it number six. Their suggestion was to try it for two years to evaluate effectiveness. Board Members had concern that there was not enough effectiveness monitoring. Probably should be more than two years of monitoring. They were wondering the cost differences between the spray and pods. The threshold needs to be looked at. There was a question regarding the survival rate without being treated. This spray has been used in Canada and back east. The Forest Service is requesting \$54,766 in BPA funds. Allen Childs moved to approve the project with more of a robust effectiveness monitoring plan and to ask the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Lab to help with the research, Ted Taylor seconded, and the motion carried with one no vote by Jeff Yanke.

**Design Funding Update:** Jeff Oveson indicated that BPA cancelled the design funding two years ago. This year, BPA asked Jeff to develop a process for receiving design funding. He submitted his process and BPA was uncomfortable with it. BPA then revised the way in getting design funding to the partners. The Implementation Team will make the decision to approve design funding for the partners and the partners will contract directly with BPA. Design funding will be \$100,000 a year for Upper Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek and \$50,000 a year for Wallowa County.

**Union County Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning:** Jeff Oveson was approached by Union County Commissioner, Mark Davidson, asking if GRMW would be willing to write a letter of interest for the Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning Effort in the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed. Union County is proposing an integrated effort to evaluate all the demands on the water resources within the watershed compared to the water resources that are available. A letter from Mark Davidson was provided along with information on the Planning from Water Resources Department (WRD) in the Board packets (attachments to file). Jeff provided a letter of interest from GRMW to Oregon WRD. At this time, GRMW could not commit a number of staff hours or a dollar amount towards this effort (attachment to file). Jed Hassinger indicated that the Farm Bureau wrote a letter of interest and they could not commit time and money at this time either. Mike Hayward will be meeting with Nils Christofferson, Wallowa Resources, to talk about a letter of interest for Wallowa County. Mike stated that Randy Jones, DEQ, is bringing this effort forward in Wallowa County. Allen Childs provided Jeff with written suggestions on his letter of interest and also read his suggestions to the Board. Jed Hassinger moved to submit Jeff's letter of interest with Allen Childs proposed changes, Allen Childs seconded, and the motion carried. Jed Hassinger moved to have the same letter of interest for Wallowa County but addressed to different people, Allen Childs seconded, and the motion carried.

**OWEB Focused Investment Program (FIP):** Jeff Oveson reported that GRMW with the support of the partners submitted a good application for Phase II of the process. OWEB Board will be conducting interviews with the selected applicants in Salem on January 12, 2016. There is another FIP applicant within this region and that is Ken Bierly, a consultant for Malheur. The results should be known by the end of January.

**OWEB Watershed Evaluations:** Evaluations were emailed out to the Board members to fill out and return. Staff received completed evaluations. The OWEB evaluation forms are not what GRMW would

like to use so Jeff will take the evaluations that were received and make up a new form with the information provided and submit that to OWEB.

### **Project Updates:**

**6 Ranch Phase II:** Coby Menton stated that the construction was completed the end of August. The contractor completed the planting obligations. The total project cost is \$418,000. The funding sources were from BPA, USFWS and OWEB. The landowner is 75% complete with the fencing and 50% complete with the off-site water. They will be adding alders and cottonwood. For protection maintenance, John Stephenson, USFWS, wanted caging to take place. The landowner will be doing the caging. Allen Childs would like to see the drone flight of the project.

**Catherine Creek Hall Ranch:** Jesse Steele mentioned that Colleen Fagan, Project Lead/ODFW, submitted an OWEB Technical Assistance Application for \$49,000 and secured \$20,000 from ODOT for design funding. Once the BPA design funds come available, she will submit a project proposal for those funds. The goal is to have the project implemented in 2017.

**CC44:** Allen Childs indicated that next week they are grading the wood structures. He mentioned that Steve Lindley, contractor, has scrappers (equipment) that are the best thing to use. There will be three weeks of channel excavation work done by February. They are working downstream up.

**Bird Track Springs:** Allen reported that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has contracted with the Forest Service NEPA department. There is background information to start the NEPA process. There are three landowners and two of those landowners have a good relationship with the Forest Service.

**Five Points:** Jesse reported that they have finished the dam removal and the large structures. They flew in the large woody debris.

**Meadow Creek:** Jesse indicated that the five water developments are completed.

### **Staff Report:**

**Ripples Newsletter:** Lacey Moore wanted to thank the partners for helping with the articles in the Ripples Newsletter. She shared her appreciation of Mitch Daniel and Montana Pagano, Nez Perce Tribe, and Chip Andrus and Colleen Fagan, ODFW, for their articles in the current newsletter. Lacey indicated that there have been issues with the printing of the Ripples Newsletter and she has been working with The Observer to fix the issues at hand. She asked the Board Members what kind of articles that they would like to see in the Ripples Newsletter. They gave her several suggestions.

**BPA Accountability Report:** Jeff Oveson provided the Board with the October Accountability Report (attachment to file).

**Opportunity for Public:** No public in attendance.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting is the Annual Meeting that will be held on December 8, 2015, at the Ascension's Kimsey Commons Conference Building in Cove. The draft agenda for the annual meeting scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> was provided (attachment to file). Jeff mentioned that Eric Quaempts, Director Department of Natural Resources of the Confederated Tribes of the

Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and Co-Chair on the OWEB Board of Directors will be giving a presentation on First Foods.

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." The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Attendance:**

**Board Members:** Mike Hayward, Ted Taylor, Allen Childs, Jeff Yanke, Jed Hassinger and Joe McCormack.

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