

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
February 28, 2012 – 5:00 p.m.
Wallowa Community Center – Wallowa OR**

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: In the absence of Chair Mike Hayward and Vice Chair Steve McClure, Jeff Oveson volunteered to chair the meeting. He brought the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Introductions followed. Larry Cribbs moved to approve the September 27, 2011, meeting minutes; Allen Childs seconded, and the motion carried. Dave Yost moved to approve the December 6, 2011, planning session minutes; Larry Cribbs seconded and the motion carried. Daryl Hawes moved to approve the proposed February 28, 2012, meeting agenda; Larry Cribbs seconded, and the motion carried (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for February, March and April were provided (attachments to file). On March 15th, in conjunction with the Union County Coordination Meeting will be the Annual Water Quality TMDL Meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the GRMW office.

La Grande Ranger District's New District Ranger, Bill Gamble: Bill reported that he has been the District Ranger for the La Grande Ranger District since December 2011. He started his Forest Service career in the late 80s and had been a District Ranger for five years before coming to La Grande, both on the Diamond Lake Ranger District on the Umpqua National Forest and in Nevada. He is looking forward to working with GRMW on restoration. He indicated that he has an open door policy and welcomed folks to visit.

Forest Service Project Update: Joe Platz, La Grande Ranger District, provided hard copies of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Aquatics Program Accomplishment Report for 2011 (attachment to file). He went over the report by showing a PowerPoint presentation.

OWEB Update: Karen Leiendecker, OWEB, reported that project applications were submitted in October. She stated that there were 33 restoration projects and 19 of them were recommended for funding. There were six technical assistant proposals and four were recommended for funding. There were three educational projects with one of those being recommended for funding. The Grande Ronde had more projects approved than any other region in this go around. The projects recommended for funding were: 1) Tri County weed control project in the upper Grande Ronde for \$40,000, 2) Joseph Creek invasive weed control project \$75,000, 3) Wallowa County Ditch project for \$195,000, 4) leafy spurge reduction project for \$88,044, 5) technical assistant for the Gekeler slough treatment water management plan for \$49,000, 6) two other technical assistant projects in Baker County, 7) Phase III Bull Trout Monitoring in Wallowa County for \$24,000, 8) Prairie Creek monitoring project and 9) Wallowa Resources outreach project for around \$27,000. The total amount recommended for funding for the Grande Ronde is \$524,883.

OWEB's Board will approve project proposals for funding soon. OWEB's project applications are due on the third Monday of April and the third Monday of October.

Old Business:

Establish a Finance Committee: This was discussed at the annual planning session in December and the Board wanted time to think about it until the February Board Meeting. A copy of the Financial Policy was provided (attachment to file). The committee may meet a couple times a year. The Foundation's CPA could meet with the committee on the quarterly reviews, etc. Board members that volunteered to be part of the committee are Bruce Eddy, Norm Cimon and Mike Hayward (Mike was selected by the Board).

Student Board Member: Also a topic at the annual planning session, Leigh Collins was asked to gather information from the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Eastern Oregon University (EOU). Leigh spoke with Larry Larson and Karen Antell at EOU. Larry and Karen were very supportive and thought that this was a good opportunity and educational for a student to function on a Board. An EOU/OSU student would hold full Board responsibility. Jeff Oveson and Leigh met with the FFA Advisors from several NE Oregon High Schools. Dave Yost indicated that the FFA has an interest in having their students serve on the Board. The FFA Advisors would select a Board candidate from among the interested students. If the student is under 18, there will need to be a contract written up that will include a statement that the student is not financially responsible and that transportation would be provided for the student to and from Board meetings and events. After much input, the Board asked that Leigh write up position descriptions for both the FFA and the EOU/OSU students and bring those back to the Board for review to help them decide which way they would like to go.

New Business:

GRMW Celebrating 20 Years: Jeff Oveson indicated that GRMW will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. Staff would like to celebrate the event on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 (at the Board meeting, the date was said to be August 23rd which was wrong). This celebration is planned to follow the August Board Meeting. Many locations for the celebration were brought up. Board Members were fine with the staff picking the location. The summer issue of the Ripples in the Grande Ronde will cover GRMW's 20 years.

Board Member Positions: Information on the Board Members' term appointments was provided (attachment to file). Jeff Oveson stated that there are several vacancies open at this time such as Wallowa and Union Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Wallowa Stock Growers, Private Forest and Landowners, and Eastern Oregon University (EOU) representations. Jeff was asked to write a letter to the SWCDs regarding their positions on our Board with a date to respond by. Larry Cribbs mentioned adding another organization such as Wallowa Resources that is willing to serve on our Board. Several names were suggested as potential candidates.

Staff Report: A written staff report that included the project updates was provided (attachment to file).

Project Update: PowerPoint presentations were also given on the following projects.

Catherine Creek Baum Wetland and Rearing Habitat Project: Jesse Steele indicated that the biological assessment was submitted on February 1, 2012. GRMW entered into consultation with NOAA and USFWS on February 6, 2012. Permits should be finalized in July 2012. Construction is planned to take place in August or September 2012. GRMW would like to use this as a small scale pilot project for monitoring fish use, determine wetland gain and monitor vegetation survival.

Catherine Creek Private Land Dike Setback: Jesse stated that they have met with Idaho Power Company (IPC) on mitigation needs for IPC's Boardman to Hemingway Substation transmission lines. The construction of the transmission lines will take place 2016-2019. GRMW has two projects, Private Land Dike Setback and Ladd Creek Crossing, in this area that will meet IPC's wetland and stream crossing mitigation needs. IPC has committed to working with GRMW. Oregon Department of Transportation's funding fell through for the Ladd Creek Crossing on Highway 203. The Department of State Lands (DSL) and the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) stated that GRMW's two projects will meet their mitigation needs.

Catherine Creek Projects: Lyle Kuchenbecker reported on the following projects in Catherine Creek: Davis Dams Fish Passage, Godley Ditch Diversion, and Little Creek Bryan Street Fish Passage. The Catherine Creek Davis Dams Fish Passage project is near completion. ODFW will operate the fish ladder and the irrigators will operate the radial gate. Both ODFW and the irrigators will operate the multi-leaf gate. Godley Ditch Diversion project has been completed. Little Creek Bryan Street Fish Passage has been completed. Union County did the work on this project. The City of Union moved the water lines and coordinated the gas line relocation as part of their cost share.

City of Lostine Diversion Structure: Coby Menton indicated that the State owned fish ladder needs to be replaced. The final designs have been completed and were approved by NOAA, ODFW, and USFWS. Partney Construction was the apparent low bidder for this project. Construction is scheduled for July and August of 2012. Coby indicated that they originally thought that the landowner to this project site was the City of Lostine but recently found out that it belongs to Richard and Jennifer Hobbs. For the project to continue, the cooperation of the landowners is needed. GRMW and ODFW have met with the Hobbs and will continue to help them in their questions and concerns. Jeff Yanke, ODFW, is working on a joint permit application that needs to be submitted soon for the project to happen this year.

Willow Creek Restoration and Enhancement Project: Allen Childs reported that the Board approved this project at the December Planning Session. Since then, there have been two changes: 1) added tribal contracting funds and 2) added a ½ mile of channel excavation on south Willow Creek. The project will not cost anymore.

Summit Creek Project: Allen Childs stated that they have waited four months for BPA to review and comment on the archeology survey report for this project. They still have work to do on the surveys. They are planning for the project to take place in July 2012. They are revising the DSL and ACOE permits. He will be meeting with Sean Welch, BPA, on the design work and will resubmit.

Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program (SB 1069 Funds): Jeff Oveson provided information within the written staff report on this program. The public comment period closes on March 15, 2012. A list of recommended funding was provided. GRMW for the Upper Grande Ronde has a recommendation of \$56,000 and recommended for funding but subject to availability of funds GRMW for the Lostine is \$56,000. If the funds come through for the Lostine, GRMW will have to come up with the match.

Catherine Creek Aquifer Storage and Recovery: The Freshwater Trust (TFT) has assumed project management of the Catherine Creek Aquifer Storage and Recovery. They will be providing a proposal that will be reviewed by GRMW Technical Committee and Board. TFT is proposing, through the transactions program and the CTUIR court fines, around \$400,000 in feasibility work this summer that will include drilling two wells in the basalt aquifer.

NOAA Recovery Planning: Jeff Oveson mentioned that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on February 8, 2012. The meeting notes were attached to the staff report (attachment to file). The Recovery Planning started back in June 2005. A redlined version of the draft was supposed to be out by February 22, 2012. A letter of endorsement labels the plan as a reference document. The Recovery Planning document will be used with the BiOp Planning.

Intern from EOU: Leigh Collins reported that an intern will be starting during the spring term. The intern will work three hours a week on public and educational outreach.

Next Board Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, April 24, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. at the Elgin Community Center in Elgin. 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 7:13 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: Bruce Eddy, Allen Childs, Jim Lauman, Bill Howell, Joe McCormack, Larry Cribbs, Ted Taylor, Daryl Hawes, Dave Yost and Norm Cimon.

Others: Lyle Kuchenbecker, Karen Leiendecker, Joe Platz, Bill Gamble, Ken Gebhardt and Mitchell Bulthuis.

Staff: Jeff Oveson, Coby Menton, Jesse Steele, Leigh Collins and Mary Estes.