

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
May 24, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.
Wallowa Community Center in Wallowa OR**

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Ted Taylor brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Ted asked that the Board sign a greeting card for Bill Maslen. Bill is retiring from Bonneville Power Administration after 38 years of service. Norm Cimon moved to approve the February 23, 2016, meeting minutes; Nick Myatt seconded, and the motion carried. Dave Yost approved the proposed meeting agenda for this May 24, 2016, meeting; Larry Nall seconded, and the motion carried. (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: Calendars for May-August were provided (attachment to file). There were no changes or additions made to the calendars.

Discussion on BOR FOA Selection: Jeff Oveson stated that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Funding Opportunity Agreement (FOA) is for local partners to apply for funding to help support project development. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Union Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD) and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW) were going to apply together for the funding, but GRMW withdrew from the application process in the hope that the ODFW Grande Ronde Fish Habitat Program and the SWCD could acquire more needed funding through OAF. USWCD was funded at \$50,000 per year for 5 years, but the ODFW Program was not selected for funding. Trout Unlimited received funding that might have been awarded to ODFW. Some of the partners are concerned that they received the funding while they have not been a part of the core group of partners working in the basin. Trout Unlimited received credit because of their contractor, Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech, Vance McGowan, will provide technical support. Nick Myatt indicated that ODFW was counting on receiving BOR funding of \$100,000 to support their staff. But BOR created the FOA selection process and subsequently decided to take that \$100,000 and put it in the FOA selection process. With the decision to switch the funds around, ODFW has a reduction of \$100,000 in staff now making things very tight. BOR would like Trout Unlimited to participate in meetings with the partners. Jeff stated that at the Union County Coordination meeting, it was decided that Trout Unlimited will need to send their staff to participate in meetings instead of contractors representing them. It was mentioned that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) are helping Trout Unlimited fund an office in Pendleton or La Grande or both places. TU has not reached out to any of the partners currently working in the basin.

Review of Project Proposals: Coby Menton summarized the two projects below. Both projects are seeking BPA 2016 funds and plan to be implemented in 2017. The project proposals were mailed out prior to the meeting.

Marr Flat Big Sheep Fence: The project applicants are the Nez Perce Tribe and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The objective of the project is to assist in the recovery of the Big Sheep Creek spring Chinook population by protecting salmon redds from trampling by livestock during spawning and incubation periods along an eight-mile reach of Big Sheep Creek. The total cost of the project is \$138,106. BPA funds are \$73,188. GRMW Staff's recommendation was to fund the project as written. Susan Roberts indicated that she will be attending the Title Two RAC meetings to make sure that the projects go through. Coby answered Nick Myatt question on the drift fence location. Larry Cribbs moved to approve the project proposal as written; Joe McCormack seconded, and the motion carried.

Lick Creek Culvert Replacement: The project applicants are Wallowa Resources (WR) and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The objectives of the project are to 1) restore access to spawning and rearing habitat above the culvert, 2) restore access to cool water refugia present above the culvert for juvenile salmonids, 3) remove risk to spawning and rearing habitat downstream of the culvert, 4) restore floodplain connectivity through the project area, and 5) retain/enhance habitat features that provide complex habitat for all life stages of native salmonids. The total cost of the project is \$334,707. BPA funds are \$112,200. GRMW staff recommendation was to fund as written. Dave Yost asked why do you need asphalt if the road is gravel? Larry Cribbs wanted to know what the weight capacity is for the bridge. Coby will get those questions clarified with the applicants and will get an email out to the Board with the answers. Susan Roberts moved to approve the project proposal with a contingency to receive satisfactory answers on the weight capacity of the bridge and why the need for asphalt, Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried. Since the Board meeting, Coby was able to get satisfactory answers to the questions from the applicants. The answers were emailed out to the Board and the Board Members that responded were fine with the answers. Jeff Oveson will send out a letter of approval.

OWEB Focused Investment Program Update:

FIP Implementation: Jeff Oveson provided a handout in the Board packets on the dedicated funds for the FIP Implementation (attachment to file). He pointed out that GRMWF will be administering the grants. In March, staff met with OWEB staff and the FIP partners. GRMW's project review process will be using OWEB's proposal format with some atlas questions added. This proposal format will be used for both OWEB and BPA project proposals. He is in the process of gathering signatures from ODFW, Forest Service, and CTUIR on the Partnership Agreement for the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative Implementation. The USWCD has signed and returned the agreement.

FIP Capacity Building: Coby Menton indicated that their first Atlas Informational meeting was held on May 11th with the local partners. Jeff Yanke, ODFW, hosted the meeting at ODFW's office in Enterprise. Dave Kaplowe, BPA, gave an overview on the atlas process. Jesse Steele, Lacey Moore and Mason Bailie provided strong support by giving examples of what they built over the last few years for the Upper Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek Atlases from maps, database needs and spreadsheets. The partners understand the merit and value of the effort in restoration work over the next five years or so. The work will begin in mid-October. Coby mentioned that it should take 3 to 4 meetings to have the atlas almost complete hopefully by mid to late spring 2017. BPA is providing guidance. The local partners include ODFW, Wallowa Resources (WR), NRAC, GRMW, The Freshwater Trust (TFT), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) and the Forest Service (FS). Kaplowe and Menton will provide a meeting schedule soon. This summer they will be working on a data needs list and will send that out to the partners. They will be looking for current data as well.

Partner Reports:

ODFW: Nick Myatt stated that the Wallowa Baker Habitat Restoration Project phase 1 is moving forward and that they are seeking OWEB funding for the second phase of the project. The Fish and Wildlife Commission will be in La Grande the week of October 6th to visit the Meadow Creek Project/Starkey area. Jeff Oveson offered help in getting ready for their visit. Nick mentioned that the Nez Perce Tribe released adult lamprey this week in Joseph Creek, Wallowa River and the Chesnimnus. There has been some lamprey caught in the screw traps in the Upper Grande Ronde and in the Minam.

Nez Perce Tribe: Joe McCormack reported that the long house is almost completed on the Wallowa Homelands site.

Finance Committee:

Management Representation Letter: Mary Estes reported that their foundation audit for 2015 was held on May 2nd & 3rd. Everything went well and there were no red flags to be concerned about. The auditors are almost completed with their audit report. The audit report will be sent to the Finance Committee. A management representation letter to Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson and Roberts from GRMW was provided in the Board packets (attachment to file).

Makeup of the Finance Committee: Mary mentioned that Ted Taylor, Norm Cimon and Mike Hayward sat on the Finance Committee. Since Mike resigned from County Commissioner leaving his position open to be filled on the committee, she asked Dave Yost if he would like to sit on the committee. He agreed too.

Staff Report:

OWEB Board Meeting and Tour: The OWEB Board Meeting was held in La Grande on April 26th. After their meeting, they went on a tour of the Catherine Creek 44 project with the core partners: ODFW, USWCD, CTUIR, GRMW and the Forest Service. GRMW hosted a reception for the OWEB Board and OWEB staff in the public library conference room. Following the reception, OWEB Board and staff had dinner at Mamacitas. In the Board packets, a copy of two cards from Karen Leiendecker, OWEB Eastern Oregon Regional Representative, and Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Executive Director, thanking GRMW staff for all their hard work (attachment to file). Ted Taylor mentioned that he attended the reception and spoke with a few of the OWEB Board Members on the atlas process. They seemed very impressed.

GRMW New Website: Mason Bailie indicated that the new website will be done this week. Lacey Moore and Mason worked on the new framework, new browsers, etc., on the new website.

Personnel Transitions: Jeff Oveson reported that Lacey will be moving to Colorado to attend Colorado State for her Master's degree in August. She took on tasks such as the Ripples Newsletter and the outreach activities since Leigh Collins left, and assists Mason where needed.

Monday, June 13th, Jessica Phelps will start her new position as the Restoration Outreach Coordinator for GRMW and The Freshwater Trust. Jessica will be housed in the GRMW La Grande office. She will be working on the Catherine Creek Assessment for The Freshwater Trust and will be working on GRMW FIP outreach program. She brings knowledge of GIS which will help GRMW since Lacey will be leaving soon.

Mason Bailie has taken a database position at the Columbia Basin Community College in Pasco and his last day will be May 27th. Jeff Oveson contacted Dr. Craft at Eastern Oregon University regarding the possibility of a potential candidate to fill Mason's position. Jeff will be meeting Connor Stone tomorrow. He was in the Air Force prior to attending college and will be graduating from EOU in June with a computer sciences degree.

BPA Accountability Report: Provided in the Board packets was the accountability report for April and May (attachment to file).

BBQ Menu: Coby Menton went over the menu provided by the Alpine Meadows Golf Course Clubhouse Café. He asked the Board to vote on a meal that they would like. Board was good with the staff picking. Mike and Bev Hayward have been invited to attend.

Opportunity for Public Participation: No members of the public attended the meeting.

Next Board Meeting and Project Tour: The next scheduled Board Meeting will be in Enterprise on August 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the Alpine Meadows Golf Course Clubhouse with a BBQ following. Prior to the meeting there will be a tour of the 6 Ranch Phase II Project starting at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Meeting Attendance:

Board Members/Alternates: Ted Taylor, Dave Yost, Larry Cribbs, Larry Nall, Gene Hardy, Nick Myatt, Norm Cimon, Susan Roberts and Joe McCormack.

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