

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
May 22, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.  
Elgin Community Center in Elgin, OR**

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:**

Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Bill Howell moved to approve the corrected version of the April 24, 2007, meeting minutes, Larry Cribbs seconded and the motion carried. The correction to the minutes was a word change under the discussion on The Nature Conservancy's Letter. The word "abstaining" was changed to the word "no." The proposed meeting agenda was amended to add a couple of discussions on "Community Indicator Workshop" and the "Swackhammer Project" under Old Business. The amended agenda was approved. (attachments to file)

**Calendar/Announcements:**

May and June calendars were provided. There were no additions to the calendars. Jeff Oveson introduced Tim Bailey, the new ODFW District Fish Biologist in La Grande. Tim will serve as Bruce Eddy's GRMW Board Alternate. Before taking this job, he worked for ODFW in Umatilla County. He indicated that he worked in La Grande in the 1980s in ODFW's habitat program.

Jeff also introduced Elaine Kohrman, acting District Ranger for the La Grande Ranger District.

Andy Perry, Business Manager; and Todd Shaw, Fish Biologist; both of Anderson Perry Associates, were in attendance to deliver the recently signed contract with GRMW that designates Anderson Perry as the primary consulting engineer for GRMW. Andy and Todd also delivered AP baseball caps as gifts to the Board.

Steve McClure reported that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is moving forward with the Glory Hole Project. The budget for the project is being worked on.

**Old Business:**

**Bonneville Power Administration Budget (BPA):**

Jeff Oveson indicated that BPA held a meeting on May 9 & 10 in La Grande. There were 19 folks at the meeting from the following agencies: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS/NOAA), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW). The two days were spent identifying actions for capital projects and the

budgets for 2007 to 2009 and for 2010 to 2016. The figures that were discussed at the meeting will be used in addressing the Bi-Op remand. These figures will also determine the extra capital BPA/GRMW budget. Jeff stated that GRMW will probably be assigned more work on the budget as part of their role in the process.

**Community Indicator Workshop:**

Ted Taylor gave an overview of the workshop that he and Coby Menton recently attended in Pendleton. Ted provided the Board with a handout (attachment to file). Mike Hibbard, University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Innovation (IPRI), approached the Board last June regarding the indicators. The IPRI's goal is to evaluate economic and social impacts of watershed enhancement activities in association with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Oregon's watershed councils. Ted indicated that there were three other watershed councils in attendance at the workshop. They spent most of the time filling out forms to identify the social and economic issues for their basins and to come up with some indicators that would measure how healthy the basin would be over time. There is more information on the handout. The Board was asked to look over the list of goals and indicators that were provided over the next month and to address the issues. Mike wants to come back and visit the council in the fall of this year to go over the indicators. Bill Howell and Melanie Tromp van Holst suggested one change on the list of indicators under the economic section: take off livestock and add agriculture. Coby and Ted noted this.

**Swackhammer:**

Melanie mentioned that there is a flow metering device stored at the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) office. This device has been there for two years and needs to be moved. This device is part of the OWEB Swackhammer project. After discussion, GRMW staff will contact the ditch company, and Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) Shad Hattan about the potential getting the device installed this year, with the understanding that if the irrigators who divert from the Swackhammer diversion do not want to install this device, it will be available for use elsewhere.

**Staff Report:**

**NPT/GRMW Relationship:**

Jeff indicated that Emmet Taylor from the Nez Perce Tribe stopped by the office after the BPA meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Emmet wanted to talk about strengthening GRMW's and NPT's relationship and working together. Jeff commented that he is confident that GRMW and NPT can build a stronger working relationship that will benefit both. He also wanted to note that Joe McCormack's work on the Board has had a very positive effect on relationships, and wanted to thank Allen Childs and Bruce Eddy for helping develop avenues through which to unify effort and strengthen the standing as a group of NPT, CTUIR, ODFW, and GRMW in the eyes of NPCC and BPA.

### **Monitoring Efforts:**

Oveson reported that BPA called a meeting earlier today at ODFW office to talk about how to address the “Request for Response” from the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The funding that was mentioned was for 2008 and 2009. Folks have been waiting for the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program to deliver information on what, when, why, and how you will monitor. This information will be so there will be a uniform approach basin-wide effectiveness monitoring program. Norm Cimon suggested that GRMW Foundation start looking for funds for monitoring since BPA does not want to pay for monitoring. Jeff Oveson indicated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) may be able to help with the monitoring funds.

### **OSU Class:**

The week of June 18<sup>th</sup>, GRMW will be hosting a graduate level class from Oregon State University: Water Conflict, Collaboration and Transformation Course. The class will spend a few days each in Union County and Wallowa County visiting with Board members, partners and going on project tours. More information on the staff report (attachment to file).

### **Public Participation:**

Melanie Tromp van Holst thanked the staff for the card that she received from them.

### **Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be on June 26, 2007, at the Wallowa Community Center in Wallowa at 6:30 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, Steve McClure, Bill Howell, Norm Cimon, Larry Cribbs, Ted Taylor, Tim Bailey and Melanie Tromp van Holst.

#### **Others:**

Elaine Kohrman, Andy Perry, Todd Shaw, and Lyle Kuchenbecker.

#### **Staff:**

Jeff Oveson, Coby Menton, and Mary Estes.