

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
January 22, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.
Wallowa Community Center – Wallowa OR**

Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Joe McCormack moved to approve the October 23, 2007, Board meeting minutes and the December 5, 2007, Planning Session minutes; Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried. The proposed meeting agenda was approved (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: A calendar was provided for January and February. There were no changes or additions to the calendar (attachment to file).

Update on Wallowa Resources

Nils Christoffersen, Executive Director of Wallowa Resources, gave the Board an update on their activities. Nils passed out information on Wallowa Resources. He stated they will be publishing new information soon (attachments to file).

Wallowa Resources was started by citizens of Wallowa County in 1996 after the lumber mill shutdown. During the first ten years, Wallowa Resources was primarily focused on the declining access to and benefits from publicly managed lands and renewable resources within Wallowa County. They are currently working on developing a stronger research program and business development such as woody biomass.

Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership

Mark Porter gave an update on the Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership. They coordinate high priority weed treatment and restoration across public and private lands in Wallowa County. Each project is a cooperative project. The weeds being dealt with now were generally introduced over 100 years ago. New species of weeds are coming in at an alarming rate. Weeds have a lot of impact on how the native systems function. The initial focus was along the river corridor. The weeds that are the biggest threat are treated first. Mark stated that they are making headway against the weeds (attachments to file).

Old Business:

Bureau of Reclamation Federal Columbia River Power System Team

Jeff shared with the Board that the Bureau of Reclamation Federal Columbia River Power System team (FCRPS) came to the GRMW office on January 10, 2008, to discuss how they could assist the GRMW and other partners. They will be able to help with design and permitting on an as-needed basis and as-available basis. They cannot provide money for construction. Partners may utilize their services in the upper Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek.

Wallowa-Whitman/BPA Funding

Jeff Oveson and Kurt Weidenmann have been having discussions regarding the Bonneville Power Administration BiOp funds and the transfer of funds. The funds are uncertain at this point until Judge Redden makes a ruling sometime in March 2008. Kurt stated that he felt there were several different levels of understanding as to the funding decisions that will be made by BPA related to the BiOp, and added that USFS is represented on the Federal Caucus, an organization that has some influence on BPA funding decisions.

Jeff said he thought that if BPA was negotiating on a regional level with USFS, it was not a discussion GRMW would be involved in, and that for now, the BPA/GRMW MOU should continue to serve as the guiding document relative to the GRMW process in expending BPA funds (attachments to file).

New Business:

BPA Passage/Capital Projects-Programmatic Review

Lyle distributed a list of potential BPA projects for capital funding developed in coordination with partners. Deer Creek is scheduled for construction in 2008. The balance of the projects on this capital funding list would “design only” in 2008, with construction anticipated in 2009/10. Site visits have taken place on Dark Canyon and South Fork Spring Creek Culvert Replacement (attachment to file).

Staff Report:

Cecelia Noyes

Cecilia Noyes and her husband have put their house on the market, so it is imminent that she will be leaving the GRMW as the GIS/Database manager. GRWM will start seeking a replacement when her departure date is determined.

Oregon Lottery Ad

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Public Outreach Coordinator, Carolyn Devine, telephoned Jeff this morning to let him know about a new Oregon Lottery billboard depicting the threatened species of Zumwalt Prairie. Carolyn stated that OWEB unsuccessfully tried to dissuade the Lottery Commission from using the proposed copy. OWEB does not have input into the Oregon Lottery ads. Norm Cimon suggested a firm, but polite letter be written to the Oregon Lottery Board.

Public Participation:

Mayor Peggy Kite-Martin addressed the Board about establishing a watershed designation for the City of Joseph within the land-use laws. The Board directed the staff to provide geographic information to Mayor Kite-Martin. She will be contacting the GRMW staff.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled Board of Directors' meeting will be held February 26, 2008, in Elgin at the Elgin Community Center, 260 North Tenth Avenue. 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 adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Meeting Attendance:

Board Members and Alternates: Mike Hayward, Steve McClure, Daryl Hawes, Pat Wortman, Joe McCormack, Norm Cimon, and Allen Childs.

Others: Lyle Kuchenbecker, Kurt Weidenmann, Paul Boehne, Karen Leiendecker, Peggy Kite-Martin, Nils Christoffersen, Mark Porter, Kathleen Cathey, and Jeff Yanke.

Staff: Jeff Oveson, Coby Menton and Heather Hall.