

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
March 25, 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. Bruce Eddy moved to approve the February 26, 2008, meeting minutes; Anna Cavinato seconded, and the motion carried. A revised agenda was provided and approved at the meeting (attachments to file).

**Calendar and Announcements:** A calendar for the rest of March and April was provided (attachment to file).

**Old Business:**

**BiOp Table 4 Discussion:**

Lyle Kuchenbecker provided four handouts: 1) Table 4 revisions summary 2) Table 4 showing the revisions, 3) Informational sheet on La Grande Ranger District proposed BiOp projects, and 4) GRMWP Project Proposal Format (attachments to file). A meeting was held on March 21<sup>st</sup> to continue to identify specific projects to address the actions identified on Table 4. Folks from Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Union Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Forest Service (FS) and GRMW Board members and staff, Steve McClure, Ted Taylor, Jeff Oveson and Lyle Kuchenbecker were in attendance.

During the March 21st meeting, the La Grande Ranger District submitted a list of eighteen range projects: eight in the Upper Grande Ronde, three in Indian Creek and seven in Catherine Creek that LGRD would like to have added to Table 4. During the meeting, it was discussed that the La Grande Ranger District will provide a master proposal using the GRMW project proposal format for these projects and they would provide a detailed informational sheet on each of the project sites. These individual sheets are to specifically provide responses to items 5, 6, 7 & 8 in the GRMW proposal format. Lyle wasn't sure which of these projects are being proposed to be implemented in 2008 or 2009. Paul Boehne stated that 1/3 of those projects will be for 2008. He will get together with Lyle on this.

The timing on getting the 2008 project proposals for Table 4 to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is very critical. Folks will need to get their completed project proposals to GRMW staff by April 14<sup>th</sup> to be copied and mailed to the GRMW Board for

review before their April 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting. The BPA contracting process will take about two months, so any projects that are to be implemented in 2008 must be developed, proposed, and contracted very quickly. The LGRD promised to work with GRMW staff on the project proposals every step of the way to make sure that the proposals are ready and complete for the first review. It is important to have NOAA Fisheries on board with these projects to move forward.

The Board and staff discussed taking the Table 4 project proposal review process from the GRMW Technical Committee. They felt that it was okay to step outside the current technical review process and have the small Table 4 committee review the proposals and to make recommendations to the GRMW Board.

Speaking for the USWCD, Paul Boehne brought four new projects to be included on Table 4. One project would be in the Upper Grande Ronde and the other three projects would be in the Catherine Creek area. Ducks Unlimited (DU) will be working on the planning and design of these projects for 2008, with construction scheduled for 2009. Paul Boehne said that DU has a “high level of confidence” that they would receive North American Wetland Conservation Act fund to help with these projects. There have been some issues in the past related to DU projects. DU’s main objective is to create water fowl habitat and wetlands that may not benefit fish. DU must coordinate the design work with GRMW, ODFW, and NOAA to insure that the projects provide fish benefits, if they anticipate using BPA funds. Currently, there is very limited information on these projects. Paul Boehne stated that these projects will be fish friendly. Steve McClure stated that GRMW needed a lot more detail in regard to these proposed projects before they could be placed on Table 4 for future consideration. Paul said that he would provide more specificity on each proposed project by mid-April, and that he would coordinate with Lyle on project development.

Lyle mentioned that the McKenzie and McDonald Creek projects may drop off of Table 4. These projects are in the Upper Grande Ronde. Fly Creek Phase 2 & 3 (LGRD) will be combined as one project in 2009. These are also in the Upper Grande Ronde.

GRMW staff asked for approval on survey/design work for 2008 for seven projects in the amount of \$230,000. The cost amounts were estimates. After discussion, the Board felt that there wasn’t enough information on these projects to be able to approve. Staff will provide a statement of work for each project and bring those back to the April Board meeting.

GRMW staff provided four policy questions related to Table 4 projects: 1) should there be a minimum cost share requirement?; 2) should BPA funds be used to pay USFS personnel?; 3) should GRMW fund “maintenance” of USFS infrastructure?; and 4) should we revise/expedite GRMW technical review process for Table 4 projects?. Board members felt that the questions should be generic and not pinpointing one entity. Jeff Oveson indicated that the Forest Service uses federal appropriated dollars and they need to be treated differently. When Bill Maslen, BPA, was here at our last meeting, he spoke about the limitations created by prohibitions against “in lieu” funding. Lyle

Kuchenbecker stated that there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest Service and BPA regarding cost share and that some attention should be paid to it. The following people: Ted Taylor, Allen Childs, Tim Bailey, Steve McClure and Jeff Oveson will meet and discuss these four policy questions and make recommendations to the Board. The policy recommendations will be discussed at the April Board meeting.

**New Business:**

**Staff Report/Project Report:**

Jeff Oveson provided a written report (attachment to file). The staff report provided information on the Oregon Trout Streambank projects. Oregon Trout has agreed to fund the Camp 9 project. They will not be funding the Ladd Marsh/Pierce Lane project or Dry Creek Passage project. These two projects will possibly be funded through BPA. Jeff will be participating in an Oregon Solutions project to involve pertinent regulatory agencies in the discussion of streamlined permitting and consultation.

Mike Hayward pointed out that there are several educational outreach activities in store for the months of April, May and June. The Board was asked to look over the list of activities (attachment to file) and to contact Mary Estes if they can help out.

**Public Involvement:**

Karen Leiendecker, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), reported that they reviewed and approved project proposals last week. Out of the five project proposals submitted for this basin, three were fully funded: Wallowa Canyonlands Weed; Wallupa Bridge Replacement, and Grande Ronde Basin Gauging Stations. The other two projects were Dry Creek and Deer Creek. These projects fell below the funded level so they were not funded. Jeff Oveson indicated that two of those projects were contingent on BPA funds.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will be held on April 22, 2008, at the Elgin Community Center in Elgin at 5:00 p.m. They will be reviewing/approval/disapproval of project proposals for Table 4; the survey/design proposal; and the policy questions in relationship to the Table 4. 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 7:55 p.m.

**Meeting Attendance:**

**Board Members and Alternates:**

Mike Hayward, Steve McClure, Anna Cavinato, Bruce Eddy, Ted Taylor, Daryl Hawes, Larry Cribbs, Allen Childs and Tim Bailey.

**Others:**

Karen Leiendecker (OWEB), Barbara Van Alstine (USFS) and Paul Boehne (USFS).

**Staff:**

Jeff Oveson, Lyle Kuchenbecker, Coby Menton and Mary Estes.