

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
April 22, 2008 - 5:00 p.m.
Elgin Community Center - Elgin OR**

Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Anna Cavinato moved to approve the March 25, 2008, meeting minutes; Bruce Eddy seconded, and the motion carried. The proposed April 22, 2008, Board meeting agenda was approved (attachments to file).

Calendar and Announcements:

A calendar for the rest of April and May was provided (attachment to file). Bruce Eddy mentioned that there will be an Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Commission meeting on May 8th and 9th at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in La Grande. The open house will be the evening of the 8th and their meeting will be held on the 9th.

Old Business:

BiOp Table 4 Discussion:

Policy Recommendations: At the March 25th Board meeting, staff provided four policy questions related to the Table 4 projects. Jeff Oveson, Ted Taylor, Allen Childs, Tim Bailey and Steve McClure were asked to meet and make recommendations for the policy questions. Their recommendations were mailed to the Board prior to the April meeting (attachment to file). The group reviewed and discussed the policy recommendations . Jeff Oveson went over the recommendations and the justifications for each of the recommendations.

Policy #1: Should United States Forest Service (USFS) personnel be paid with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Fish and Wildlife funds? The recommendation was "A cost-based development/design fee should be set aside for each project, after which USFS can assume responsibility for development/design or request reimbursable independent contractor support to complete these tasks." The justification was "To the degree that this kind of work can be completed by the sponsoring agency, it should be. In the case of projects that require planning and design beyond the capacity of USFS to complete the work, accommodations can be made to secure the services of an independent contractor."

Bruce Eddy stated that he agrees with the recommendation but would like it to be simpler. If the Forest Service has the time and expertise to do the design work that is great; but, if they don't, they need to look for independent contractual expertise outside

their capabilities. He is hesitant to fund Forest Service personnel but doesn't want to put a "no" on it. As a last resort, these types of projects with personnel costs should be looked at on a case-by-case basis. He liked how the justification read over how the recommendation read. Mike Hayward agreed with Bruce. Instead of naming one entity, you could state partners to cover everyone. Allen Childs felt that this policy should be temporary for 08 and 09. He believes that BPA funds should go to on-the-ground projects not personnel salaries. Staff was asked to rewrite the recommendation and send it out for Board review.

Policy #2: Should GRMW require a minimum cost share on USFS projects? The recommendation was: USFS should strive to meet a minimum 30% cost share for the development and implementation of projects, including cash and in-kind.

This 30% cost share is mentioned in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the FS and BPA. The drawback to this 30% cost share is that it is region wide and it could be used anywhere in the region on other projects. Bruce Eddy stated that the minimum 30% cost share needs to stay in this basin and not go to other basins on other projects. Larry Cribbs agreed.

Policy #3: Should GRMW use BPA funds to pay for the maintenance of USFS infrastructure? The recommendation was: Projects that include maintenance of existing infrastructure should be analyzed on an individual basis using information provided in items 5-8 of the GRMW proposal format. The justification for this is that BPA can only receive credit toward the implementation of BiOp/Table 4 projects if there is a clear and measurable biological benefit.

Mike Hayward stressed that he didn't want to put a "no" on this and he felt that it would be better to look at these types of projects on a case-by-case basis. Jeff Oveson indicated, after speaking with BPA on the infrastructure and the off-stream watering, there is no biological gain by replacing existing infrastructure. BPA would like to let the GRMW Board define maintenance on a case-by-case basis.

Policy #4: The development of projects and accompanying proposals is likely to be an ongoing process, yet there is not a clearly defined solicitation process for BiOp/Table 4 projects. The recommendation was: BiOp/Table 4 project proposals will be accepted throughout the time that GRMW is addressing the actions described in Table 4. For a project to be considered for funding, a complete proposal must be electronically submitted to GRMW staff no later than 14 days prior to the next regularly scheduled GRMW Board meeting. Acceptance of proposals will be reviewed by qualified participating partners and the GRMW Board. Acceptance for review does not guarantee a recommendation of funding, or that funding is available. The Board members were fine with the timeframe. A clarification on the word "complete" proposal means for the applicant to follow GRMW proposal format. Staff will rewrite the policy to indicate to follow the guidelines of the GRMW project proposals format.

Staff will rewrite these policy recommendations and send them back to the Board so they can comment on them before the next meeting.

GRMW Survey/Design Funding Requests:

At the March 25th Board meeting, the Board asked staff to provide more information on the survey/design work for seven projects in 2008. Information on three of the projects (Catherine Creek/Baum Rearing Habitat; Catherine Creek/Elmer Wetland Habitat; Catherine Creek/Sheehy Rearing Habitat) was mailed out to the Board prior to the meeting (attachments to file). Lyle Kuchenbecker stated that they had a site visit at each of the three project sites.

During their site visit with the engineers, they realized that the Catherine Creek/Baum project will be difficult to do as conceptualized. There would be substantial excavation work(1000 cu.yds.+) and significant risk for minimal habitat benefit. Staff will explore different options.

The Catherine Creek/Elmer project is to remove the dike and reconstruct about 3200 feet of the new dike. Anderson Perry will do the survey/design the project for \$25,000.

The Catherine Creek/Sheehy project objective is to provide Chinook and steelhead backwater winter rearing habitat. Staff, fish biologists, and engineers are very excited about his project. The estimated cost of the survey/design for this project is \$12,000. The project could end up being a bigger project over the years. Allen Childs asked if it would be cost effective if we surveyed the whole project area and not just the immediate project site since it has a possibility of getting larger. Lyle thought that was a great idea if the landowner is willing to do this. The cost may go up if they decide to survey the whole project area.

They were unable to get any further information on the four other projects: McKenzie, UGR Mine Tailings, North Fork Catherine Ford, and Buck Creek Culvert s. Lyle reported that the McKenzie project may not go forward by 2009. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Forest Service are currently working on the details of the Upper Grande Ronde Mine Tailing project. Information on this project should be available by the next Board meeting. North Fork Catherine Ford and Buck Creek Culvert projects have not been finalized on the fish passage issues.

Bruce Eddy moved to approve Catherine Creek /Elmer Wetland Habitat survey/design for \$25,000 and Catherine Creek/Sheehy survey/design for \$12,000; Daryl Hawes seconded, and the motion carried.

2008 Project Proposals:

La Grande Ranger District:

Planning-Fly Creek Stream Restoration Project Phase III:

The project proposal was mailed out prior to the meeting (attachment to file). Kurt Wiedenmann gave an overview of the project. The proposal seeks funding for planning for Phase III of the project. Kurt stated that Fly Creek Phase I was partially funded by BPA through GRMW in 2006. Fly Creek Phase II will be implemented in 2009. Fly Creek Phase III is planned to be combined with Phase II. The planning and design for Fly Creek Phase II is scheduled for 2008. The Forest Service is requesting \$17,500 BPA funds to support planning, survey and design of the project. The FS plans to bring a project proposal for the implementation in 2009. During the discussion, Board and staff indicated that the project appears to have substantial fish benefits. Mike Hayward questioned why the funds being requested were for salaries and why couldn't the Forest Service pay their salaries when the employees were already budgeted. Kurt tried to explain that they would have to bring in other Forest Service employees on detail or allocate other resources to help out in the areas while FS biologists work on this project.

Bruce Eddy stated that he felt that the Forest Service wasn't using their various budgets wisely to pay for their personnel costs. Bruce stressed that the requested amount and their cost-share should be reversed where the Forest Service pays more. Anna Cavinato stressed that they should stick to the policy that they just discussed and approved earlier in this meeting about approving BPA funds for FS personnel salaries. Mike Hayward mentioned that he agrees with Anna but they did indicate that they would look at the project proposals requesting funds for salaries on a case-by-case basis.

Bruce Eddy moved to offer the Forest Service \$9000 in BPA funds for the project and that the Forest Service can make up the rest of the funds; Larry Cribbs seconded, and the motion passed with two "no" votes from Joe McCormack and Mike Hayward. This offer will go back to the Forest Service.

USWCD/DU Projects:

There were four project proposals from Union Soil Water Conservation District/Ducks Unlimited (USWCD/DU) that were mailed out prior to the Board meeting (attachment to file). These four projects were: Catherine Creek Floodplain Restoration, Phyllis Slough Floodplain Restoration, Pyles Creek Floodplain Restoration, and Willow Creek Floodplain Restoration. Jeff Oveson reported that on their way to this meeting, Chuck Lobdell emailed him and stated that they would like to submit revised proposals for the projects at the Board's May meeting. They would like to add more information on the limiting factors to the proposals. Paul Boehne is working with Chuck on these proposals. Paul stated that once they get the additional information together they would share the information with Lyle and Jeff before it is mailed out to the Board.

Melanie Tromp van Holst stated that these four project proposals were brought before the USWCD Board. Their Board voted to support the project proposals but they also requested more information in the proposals. Allen Childs indicated that he would like to see fish habitat first and then ducks as driving components in the revised proposals. Larry Cribbs mentioned that we need to treat DU and others the same as we do the FS on paying for personnel. The revised proposals will come back to the May Board meeting.

Jeff Oveson introduced Lisa Cron, USWCD Manager. Lisa has been the manager for the USWCD for two weeks. The Board and staff welcomed her.

Update on the Salmon Recovery Plan:

The last Recovery Planning meeting was held on April 8, 2008. The Board was provided an internal draft of the plan on a CD. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would like to have comments on this draft by May 30, 2008. Jeff Oveson indicated that the Board should look at sections 8 & 9. He stressed that NOAA did not change much of the limiting factors. Lyle Kuchenbecker mentioned to look at the EDT tables taken from the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan. Statements made in the Recovery Plan regarding limiting factors were not supported by EDT analysis. Additionally the Subbasin Plan is often incorrectly used in citations. Staff will read and make comment, and will bring back their comments to the next Board meeting.

New Business:

Staff Report:

Jeff Oveson reported that Cecilia Noyes' last day with GRMW was April 18th. She took a position with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in Salem and will start there on April 28th. Cecilia moved to Corvallis with her husband Jim. Jim transferred with ODFW to Corvallis in November 2007. Her position at GRMW as Database/GIS/IT Manager was advertised through various newspapers and networks. Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2008.

Lyle Kuchenbecker provided a spreadsheet on the capital design projects from Anderson Perry (attachment to file). Anderson Perry will provide an updated spreadsheet every month. Lyle reported that half of the 15 projects are waiting for the snow to melt before Anderson Perry can do survey and subsequent design work. The other projects are in various stages of the survey and design process. Other information on the staff report was the outcome of the educational projects; information on an opportunity to work with Sid Thompson, RiverBend-Oregon Youth Authority; and information on the Wallowa River 6 Ranch, Dry Creek and the Wildcat/Wallupa projects (attachment to file).

Public Participation:

Opportunity offered.

Next Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be held on May 27th in Wallowa at the Wallowa Community Center 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 adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Board Meeting Attendance:**Board Members:**

Mike Hayward, Joe McCormack, Bruce Eddy, Anna Cavinato, Pat Wortman, Daryl Hawes, Bill Howell, Allen Childs, Melanie Tromp van Holst, and Larry Cribbs.

Others:

Karen Leiendecker (OWEB), Kathleen Cathey (Senator Wyden’s Office), Kurt Wiedenmann (FS), Paul Boehne (FS), Lisa Cron (USWCD), and Brian Kelly (HCPC).

Staff:

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