

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Board of Directors' Meeting
May 27, 2008 – 5:00 p.m.
Wallowa Community Center in Wallowa**

Approval of the Minutes and Agenda:

Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Introductions followed. Pat Wortman moved to approve the April 22, 2008, meeting minutes; Norm Cimon seconded, and the motion carried. The proposed meeting agenda was approved (attachments to file).

Calendar/Announcements: A calendar was provided for the rest of May and June 2008 (attachment to file). There were no changes or additions made to the calendar.

New GRMW Staff Member:

Mason Bailie was hired to take Cecilia Noyes' position as the GIS/Database/Website/IT person for GRMW. He started work on May 27, 2008. Mason stated that he is a senior at Eastern Oregon University and will be graduating with a computer science degree in June. He grew up on a farm in Mesa, Washington near the Tri Cities.

Old Business:

BiOp Table 4 Discussion:

An updated version of Table 4 was provided (attachment to file).

Policy Recommendations:

Jeff Oveson stated that Bruce Eddy, Steve McClure, and he met with Chris Furey, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), regarding funding issues associated with Table 4 (BiOp) projects. Chris indicated that BPA will be funding Forest Service (FS) personnel and projects on the BiOp Table 4. During this process, GRMW Board will not review Forest Service projects or make funding recommendations. The GRMW Technical Committee is still being asked to review FS project proposals for technical merit and provide comments to BPA and to the FS. GRMW will be responsible for their projects as well as conducting the normal review of project proposals from other partners on the BiOp Table 4 list. Steve McClure stated that when he spoke with Bill Maslen, BPA Fish & Wildlife Program Director, he was told that this policy change is specific to Table 4 BiOp projects. Any FS project proposals that do not come from the Table 4 list will undergo GRMW's current standard project review process. There is a letter coming from Bill Maslen that will outline BPA's expectations of GRMW. Some Board Members expressed their concerns about the Forest Service circumventing the GRMW process instead of working with GRMW and the other partners. The policy recommendations

(attachment to file) will need to be revised making them generic to any agency or organization to be used for future projects. Allen Childs, Steve McClure, Ted Taylor, Tim Bailey and Jeff Oveson will meet to revise the policy recommendations and send those out to the Board for review.

2008 Project Proposals:

La Grande Ranger District:

These projects were not reviewed. There were evaluations provided from the Technical Committee on the projects (attachments to file).

Ducks Unlimited Projects:

Lyle Kuchenbecker mentioned that staff, Tim Bailey, Allen Childs, Vance McGowan, Lisa Cron, Curt Mykut and Chuck Lobdell visited two project sites, Pyles Creek and the Lower Catherine Creek/Ladd Creek confluence. These two projects appear to be at a very premature stage, and are not developed enough to be implemented in 2008 or 2009, regardless of information previously received from Paul Boehne, State Chair for DU. DU sent a letter dated May 13, 2008, to GRMW, essentially withdrawing their four project proposals (attachment to file). DU's concern was that they would be unable to resolve some of the uncertainties associated with the work in time to successfully bring the projects to conclusion. GRMW staff will keep looking for replacement projects to be added to the BiOp Table 4 project list. Staff keeps BPA in the loop with an updated Table 4.

Update on the Salmon Recovery Plan:

Jeff Oveson reported that a draft internal plan was provided on CDs at the last Board meeting. Staff has been reviewing the document and making comments. The comments are due on May 30th to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) office in La Grande. Board and staff members feel that they will not be happy with the final plan. GRMW staff expressed concerns that previous comments have not been fully considered in previous plan revisions, and that if the latest comments receive the same reception from NMFS, the GRMW Board may want to consider their comments on the final draft plan.

New Business:

City of Wallowa – Riverwalk Project:

Jeff Oveson provided a map of an area which was the old Bates Mill site in Wallowa (attachment to file). The land is owned by DR Johnson. The City of Wallowa is working with The Oregon State Parks and a couple of economic development groups to develop this area as a combination of an industrial park with baseball and softball fields and they would like to add a couple of soccer fields, etc., in this area. Ron Gay, Mayor of

Wallowa; Mary Hawkins, City Council Member; and Chris Geyer are also working on this planning efforts. They would like the GRMW to be a partner focusing on the restoration work on the river. Mike Hayward indicated that this area is the largest piece of industrial land they have in Wallowa County. There are some fields that will be difficult to get rid of and there are some wetland issues in this area. This is a choice piece of industrial land. He felt that they are doing a great job in bringing partners to the table.

Joe McCormack stated that the Nez Perce Wallowa Band Interpretive Center is working on the development of a channel re-contour/meander project upriver from this site. Their project is on hold while they are working on a solution on the river frontage and the meander. They have applied for OWEB funds for the design work.

Staff Report/Project Report:

Lyle Kuchenbecker and Coby Menton briefly touched on the following projects:

6 Ranch Project: There will be a pre-bid contractor meeting and tour at 1:00 p.m. at GRMW office in Enterprise. On June 3rd, the bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. at the GRMW office in La Grande. They should be able to choose a contractor following the opening of the bids. The final designs are finished. The removal fill permit for the Division of State Lands is in the mail. The consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in the process. For months, they have been working on getting the consultation completed with NOAA Fisheries. This has been a long battle. They feel that they are on the right track in receiving a Biological Opinion (BO) from NOAA. The removal fill permit with the Corp of Engineers has not been obtained.

Deer Creek Culvert: The Forest Service should have a contractor selected by June 6th. GRMW has ordered the box culvert. This will be delivered in time to do the project this summer.

McDaniel II Project: This project will be started within the first week in August. This should be a two or three week job. Jeff Oveson asked Allen Childs when they move the water into the new channel to let GRMW know so the Board and staff could visit the project before a Board meeting. Allen will get back to them on a date. He stated that they are going to be picking a date for a site showing when the work is done.

Wildcat/Wallupa Bridges: Don Edmundson is the selected contractor for this project. Pre-construction meeting will be held on June 5th. The out-of-water work will begin in mid-June and the in-water work will begin July 1st.

Dry Creek Fish Passage Project: This project is on hold. There are snags with NOAA consultation.

Capital Planning Design Projects: The capital planning design projects include: Catherine Creek Davis Dams, Catherine Creek Townley Dobins, Willow Creek Diversion, Cabin Creek Culverts, Fence Creek Culverts, Carrol Creek Culverts, and four

Forest Service Fish Passage projects. Most of these projects are in progress with survey and design. On the Catherine Creek Davis Dams, GRMW received the pre-engineering report. The report describes site conditions, objectives and construction alternatives (consolidate into one diversion or remain with two). The preliminary construction estimate doubled from original estimates. There may be two large diversion structures with fish ladders. Pre-consultation meetings with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries are in progress. The Townley/Dobbin project will address the fish passage on Catherine Creek at the diversion in the City of Union. Construction for both projects is planned for 2009.

Ladd Re-channel Project: Not sure if construction will occur this year. We are waiting for the channel design which is holding up the permits. If the permits are received in a timely manner the work could start in September or October. ESA consultation and cultural resource clearance is complete.

Public Participation: Opportunity offered.

Next Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be held on June 24th in La Grande at the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Office at 5:30 p.m. (location and time changed since meeting due to unavailability in Elgin). 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 6:05 p.m.

Board Meeting Attendance:

Board Members: Mike Hayward, Steve McClure, Joe McCormack, Bruce Eddy, Pat Wortman, Larry Christman, Bill Howell, Allen Childs, Norm Cimon, and Ted Taylor.

Others: Kurt Wiedenmann (FS), Paul Boehne (FS), Lisa Cron (USWCD), Barbara Van Alstine (FS), Betty Mathews (FS), and Darrell Dyke (BOR).

Staff: Jeff Oveson, Lyle Kuchenbecker, Coby Menton, Mason Bailie, and Mary Estes.