

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW)  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
September 25, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.  
Elgin Community Center in Elgin**

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:**

Mike Hayward brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Anna Cavinato moved to approve the May 22, 2007, and the July 24, 2007, meeting minutes; Larry Cribbs seconded, and the motion carried. The proposed meeting agenda was amended by moving the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Budget Update after the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grants Team Discussion under Old Business. An update from Phil Shephard, The Nature Conservancy, will be held under New Business. The agenda was approved after the changes. (attachments to file)

**Calendar/Announcements:**

A calendar was provided for the remaining month of September and the month of October (attachment to file). The following was changed on the calendar:

Ray Jubitz of Jubitz Family Foundation was scheduled for a project tour on September 26<sup>th</sup> with GRMW Staff, but this has been rescheduled for October 4, 2007. Ray is interested in investing in restoration projects and other natural resources in both Union and Wallowa Counties. Anna Cavinato mentioned that if he is interested in the educational portion of the restoration projects, let her know.

**Old Business:**

**Update of Recovery Planning:**

Minutes of the September 20, 2007, meeting was provided (attachment to file). Jeff Oveson stated that his concerns about the draft plan offending private landowners in Eastern Oregon are being addressed, but he feels that the plan will still sufficiently identify threats and limiting factors. BPA will be scheduling a meeting with Judge Redden to present the plan. Mike Hayward mentioned that Jeff Blackwood and Randy Tweten gave a presentation in Wallowa County and they stated that the GRMW received lots of credit for their involvement as their sounding board for this plan. They are hoping to have a draft plan out in December 2007. The next meeting will be scheduled for November.

**OWEB Small Grants Team:**

Jeff Oveson mentioned the OWEB Small Grants Team for the Grande Ronde Basin (including Imnaha area) Region. The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), both Union and Wallowa Soil and Water

Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and GRMW were invited to sit on this team to select projects for funding. \$100,000.00 is available to the team each biennium for small grant projects. The current team is Cynthia Warnock, WSWCD; Sarah Henderickson, USWCD; Craig Ely, GRMW. The tribes did not respond to the invitation to sit on the team. Craig Ely is no longer on GRMW Board. According to OWEB rules, GRMW will need to replace Craig with another Board member. Bill Howell moved to replace Craig with Bruce Eddy; Larry Cribbs seconded; and the motion carried. Jeff will contact Craig regarding his replacement.

**Bonneville Power Administration Budget:**

Oveson mentioned that Lyle Kuchenbecker and Cecilia Noyes did a great job of pulling together information for the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) on their request for a report presenting monitoring results to date pertaining to the effectiveness of the projects. A staff report and more information from ISRP was mailed out to the Board earlier this month (attachment to file). GRMW funding for 2008 and 2009 was contingent upon this report to the ISRP.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) recommended funding levels for GRMW are 2008 expense funds are \$1,713,000.00 and the capital funds are \$950,000, and for 2009 expense funds are \$1,883,000.00 and the capital funds are \$500,000.00. This is an increase from the current funding of \$1.18 million. GRMW is still waiting to hear on the potential BiOp expense and capital funds. Steve McClure stated we should know those results after January.

A letter arrived a day after the Board meeting stating that NPCC at their September 11, 2007, meeting, recommended BPA project funding for Fiscal Year 2007 – 2009 for GRMW Habitat Restoration Project. Based on the ISRP's review, the council believes that the GRMW has adequately addressed the conditions placed on it as part of the funding recommended. The letter was mailed out to the Board (attachment to file).

*GRMW Project Budget based on BPA funding:*

Lyle Kuchenbecker went over the GRMW BPA Fiscal Year 07 anticipated expenditures and the Fiscal Year 08 budget projection (attachments to file). Board and staff went over certain projects, such as Wildcat, Wallupa and Six Ranch, listed in fy07 and fy08 for clarification on the funding. There are projects on the shelf waiting for funding to come available, such as the Ladd Rechannel Project. Jeff indicated that potentially there could be \$250,000 in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funds available soon for the Six Ranch project. Lyle indicated that if GRMW gets BiOp funding, there will be a second project solicitation. The deadline for the first project proposal solicitation is October 15, 2007, for BPA funding.

*Questions from Nez Perce Tribe:*

Jeff indicated that there is a handout regarding questions that the NPT had on GRMW's project funding (attachment to file). Joe McCormack was not available to go over the questions. Jeff went over the questions and the answers that GRMW provided. Larry Cribbs asked Jeff to get clarification and specifics on question number three from Rick Christian, NPT. The Board and staff appreciated Joe's efforts in bringing these questions to staff prior to the meeting and all of his hard work.

**New Business:**

**Staff Report:**

Jeff Oveson provided a handout on the staff report (attachment to file).

*BPA and OWEB Project Tours:*

The BPA tour was held on August 24<sup>th</sup>. They toured Union and Wallowa County projects. There were 22 people in attendance. The OWEB tour was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. They toured projects in Union County. There were 63 people in attendance. Both tours went really well with great reviews.

*Completed Project Review and Future Potential Projects:*

Jeff and Lyle walked the lower portion of the McIntyre Road Project on Dick Snow's property. The planting there hasn't done well but there were lots of naturals coming in on some of the disturbed areas. They also checked out Bear Creek Road Relocation project. He mentioned to Kurt Wiedenmann, La Grande Ranger District, that they were very impressed with the solar pump system.

The future potential projects are the Davis Dams Fish Passage on Catherine Creek and the Bud Stone Property Channel Relocation project on the Wallowa River.

*American Fisheries Society (AFS) Award:*

Jeff Oveson reported that he was contacted by Bruce Eddy regarding nominations for the AFS Riparian Challenge Award. Jeff submitted a nomination for the End Creek/Rice Project. GRMW received the award for the project as the recipient. Since GRMW is not the recipient, they will be presenting this award to the property owner, Joel Rice.

**Project Updates:**

Lyle Kuchenbecker reported that they are done working on McDaniel Phase II and the Catherine Creek State Diversion Projects for this year and will continue the work next year.

**Public Participation:**

### **The Nature Conservancy Update – Phil Shephard:**

Phil reported that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is in the process of purchasing a conservation easement on land owned by Bruce Hampton. The property is adjacent to the TNC Zumwalt Preserve. The easement would be purchased with \$500,000 of US Fish and Wildlife Section 6 Funding and other funding. TNC also expects to submit a proposal for funding of the easement purchase to OWEB in October. He indicated what the stipulations will be on the purchase of this property under the Section 6 Funding. The next step is the appraisal of the property. The funding for this purchase depends on the appraisal. Bill Howell mentioned that he would like the name of the appraiser. Phil will get him that information.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on October 23, 2007, at the Wallowa Community Center in Wallowa at 6:30 p.m. Jeff Oveson mentioned that Tim Fisher, Fisher Fisheries, will be giving a presentation on his project data work for BPA and that Joe McCormack will be bringing a Geologist from Washington to talk about aquifer recharge. 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 7:50 p.m.

### **Meeting Attendance:**

### **Board Members and Alternates:**

Mike Hayward, Steve McClure, Bill Howell, Pat Wortman, Larry Christman, Larry Cribbs, Anna Cavinato, Bruce Eddy, Norm Cimon, Ted Taylor, and Daryl Hawes.

### **Others:**

Kurt Wiedenmann, Phil Shephard, and Lyle Kuchenbecker.

### **Staff:**

Jeff Oveson and Mary Estes.