

KWP minutes for 04.27.2023 board meeting

Members present: Roger Smith, Ann Wenner, Ashton Greer, Mark Buettner

Members absent: Karl Wenner, Matt Walter, Shirley Kerns

Quorum present: Yes

Staff: Bill Lehman, Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Mark Johnson, Jeff Kerber

Guests: Bill Harworth, Ryan Hartman

January minutes: Approved

Grant Funding Updates: **See attached.** Submitted applications not listed include a USFWS five-mile grant and one additional USFWS application. Drought relief and fire recovery grants may expire on 6/30/23, but funds likely to be carried forward. If not extended it is likely we won't be able to spend all of these funds.

Grants Secured: **See attached.** ~7.5 million in current funding, of which over 1.5 million are operational funds (personnel, travel, admin). Roger asked if staffing levels are high enough to support this level of funding. Staff commented they aren't overwhelmed at the moment.

COLA and Wage Considerations: Bill will ask for a raise for each staff member at the July board meeting. Roger requested a comparison with other watershed councils; the most recent NOWC survey to provide this info is from 2019 (See attached). Bill would like to be competitive with federal agencies with similar pay rates. **Local GS scale also attached.**

Additional Bank Account and check signers: Bill started account at Edwards Jones with FDIC insurable amount of \$500,000 due to larger funds in accounts and bank collapse issues. Bill suggested having another check signer to relieve pressure on Ann and Matt. Bill requested a vote to raise the amount requiring 2 signatures from 1000 to 2000 dollars. All board members present voted in favor of raising the limit requiring 2 signatures to 2000 dollars.

Project Manager Update:

Bootleg Fire Recovery:

- streams: Placed timelapse cameras in Brownsorth Creek to capture runoff effects.
- Partnered with OIT for a BIL funding proposal for monitoring multiple stream characteristics
- 3/4 of cutting completed at Yaden Flat meadow restoration
- Green Diamond road hazard tree removal-791 acres complete by end of March, or about 40 miles of roadways-GDRC paid for plowing to access these roads in case funding expires 6/30/23.

242 Reforestation:

- Planted over 175,000 seedlings on over 600 acres in the last 2 weeks (Summit forestry out of Medford has a planting crew of 10 – 18,000 plants a day!)

Stockwater:

-Hydes installed 1.5 miles of piping from existing well to new trough location

-Western Water Development will drill 3 wells each on Hyde and CK&M properties in May.

Other: Leigh Ann testified in Salem advocating for the carry forward into next biennium for OWEB emergency funding (Stockwater and post-fire grants)

-Presented on Bootleg with TNC, USFS, and GDRC at the Foresters Forum

Project Coordinator update:

-KDD Irr. Eff. – secured additional 247,731 from OWEB Klamath Drought Resiliency to continue existing USFW project on Klamath Drainage District (KDD). One of 3 fields complete, working on second, third to be completed in fall 2023.

-Lowland Farms Wet Meadow Project – 107 acre wet meadow restoration with work delayed until Mid-April due to weather. Fence removed and water control structures replaced. Levee work will begin as project area continues to dry out.

-Stockwater – Mark has 3 properties and 5 wells he is managing. 2 wells already drilled and remaining 3 should be drilled in May, but fencing is already in progress. It is likely we can complete grant objectives by June 30th deadline.

-Ongoing and Potential Projects: Lost River Ecological Resiliency Process – 5 landowners on board for fencing and riparian planting. Submitted grant proposal for \$121,000.

-KDD District-wide effort

-Field work for projects implemented during FY21 and FY22 funding.

Director Report:

-Bill asked Mark B. for clarification on the Tribe's expectations for the Ambodant policy. Mark said the Tribe would like to have a meeting with interested parties to share goals of the Tribe which is still identifying how to streamline the process. Roger suggested having flexibility and being open to feedback when meeting with Klamath Tribes and make plans accordingly.

-Audit to be completed in May. Leigh Ann said her previous non-profit did an audit every 3 years even if not required. The process is harder the longer it has been since previous audit.

-Indirect Rate for 2023 confirmed at 14.36%

Grants and Projects Administrator Report: Jeff is taking over RAC weed grants from Mark J. We are planning on holding off transplanting Wocus this year while USFWS liason is on detail in Alaska. This will allow us to identify new planting locations for 2024. Updated board on progress at Swanson's riparian restoration. Plums and other plants were planted in Spring and OWEB small grant money will be exhausted with the fall 2023 planting. Plums were also planted at Mark B.'s property.

Shirley Kerns Memorial – Roger asked for update. We are looking at a custom-made ranch sign and Mark J. is in contact with Lyndon.