

Klamath Watershed Partnership minutes for November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 board meeting

Members Present: Karl and Ann Wenner, Ashton Greer, Mark Buettner, Bill Harworth, and Roger Smith.

Member Absent: Ryan Hartman and Matt Walter

Quorum: Yes

Staff present: Bill Lehman, Mark Johnson, Jeff Kerber (remote)

July minutes: approved

Grants pursued: Bill discussed USFWS BIL subcontract (Big Swing proposal), Wallowa Resources NRCS subcontract, Small Grant Team Biennium contract, ODF Landscape Resiliency denied, and OWEB forest projects on hold. Mark discussed Sprague River Oxbow Reconnect on hold. Drought relief and fire recovery grants extended through 2025. USFWS partners projects for 2024 are in process of approval.

Board discussed the evolution of the Upper Basin Ag Collective and how that led to the big swing proposal and KWP's role in that funding. The Catena Foundation's potential role in restoration in the basin was discussed.

Grants Secured: Board requested to have a tracker to show trend of funding versus just the snapshot the spreadsheet provides. Total secured operational funds are estimated to be \$1,223,594 while total funds secured are approximately \$5,757,349.

Board discussed prioritizing fencing projects in the Bootleg footprint and requested KWP staff contact previous project participants to ask if their fences need repair and report back by next board meeting.

Karl motioned to accept budget and Rodger seconded. Board voted to approve.

Project Manager Update: Leigh Ann travelling back from conference. Board expressed concern over using BDAs as only tool in river restoration toolbox. Would like to see revegetation and fencing incorporated into these projects.

Project Coordinator update: Mark updated board on laser leveling project and hopes to get LIDAR data to show water savings. Buck Camp BDAs are catching sediment and adjacent property also has BDAs. Both riparian and upland revegetation are planned for 2024. Whiskey Creek BDAs were installed in late August and a week later after a rain water was observed filling side channels. Willows will be installed this fall. Patty's Garden project had nearly 900 plants installed and fenced. TNC Long Creek Scoping to assess restoration potential on property. Partners include TNC, The Klamath Tribes, and USFWS and the adjacent landowner expressed interest for 2024 funding. He also discussed ongoing potential projects.

Grants and Projects Administrator update: Jeff updated progress on Swanson small grant; sixty plants installed in October. Jeff assisted the USFWS with sucker telemetry tagging surgeries for one day at the USFWS fish hatchery. Jeff updated board on noxious weed grants. The USFS RAC grants are spent out in both regions (Lost River and Keno/Sprague river). The committee is waiting on charter approval before they can meet and call for proposals at which time we plan to apply for an increase in funding this program as interest has outgrown funding. Progress on a grant to treat Dyer's Woad on Grizzly mountain has stalled and may be better for the CWMA to pursue in 2024. Jeff had reached out to USFWS about applying for a state weed board grant to treat weeds on USFWS revegetation projects.

Interest was expressed, but tabled due to partners biologists schedules and now it may be too late to get the necessary data to apply. Jeff will be coordinating with Akimi from USFWS to plan a plant order for the USFWS pollinator grant during December/January for 2024 planting. Jeff also summarized his administrative work.

Executive Director Report: Bill updated board on the audit results and the need to follow KWP's procurement policy. Bill updated the board on the biochar filtration project.