

KWP minutes for 07.25.2023 board meeting

Members present: Roger Smith, Ann Wenner, Ashton Greer, Mark Buettner, Bill Harworth, Ryan Hartman, Matt Walter

Members absent: Karl Wenner, Shirley Kerns

Quorum present: Yes

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

April minutes: Approved

Grant Funding Updates: Sixteen new funding possibilities pursued since April board meeting.

Grants Secured: KWP has around 400,000 in savings and we discussed investing this money to maximize earning potential. CD's are a possibility and the board gave approval to invest. Just under 1.6 million in new funding was secured since the April board meeting. Total secured operational funds are estimated to be 1.33 million with total funds secured are approximately 6.68 million

COLA and Wage Considerations: Compensation of current 4 staff members is now less than \$327,000. COLA, Wage/Staff/cell phone stipend increase recommendations come to approximately \$50,000 additional annual cost. After possibly adding a new restoration project manager at 82,000 total annual salaries with benefits would be approximately 509,000. Pay increase/cell phone motioned, seconded, and approved with zero nay votes.

Additional Bank Account and check signers: Board approved Ashton Greer to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> check signer.

Project Manager Update:

Harmony Preserve: 194 acres pine thinning and juniper removal, 31 acres riparian hand thinning and piling, 70 acres juniper removal, hand cutting, and skidding.

242 Reforestation: 2023 = 177,600 seedlings on 592 acres with 6 landowners. In 2024 456,800 seedlings will be planted on 1,500+ acres for 15+ landowners. Over 75 percent of needed acres will be planted in the 242 fire print in these 2 years. Green Diamond has been a large help with seedling storage and staff support out of their pocket.

Bootleg Fire Recovery: LWD additions to streams – 12 miles (10% complete), Stream protection fencing – 6.2 miles (75% complete), Site prep – 141 acres (complete), Road hazard trees – 106 miles (75% complete), Meadow restoration – 14 acres (complete).

Fivemile Creek Fencing, Site Prep, Stream Enhancements, and Future Restoration.

Large Wood Additions to Streams: adding structure and diversity to streams.

Wells and Riparian Fencing: Hydes and CK&M completed fencing, Western Water Development out of Redmond contracted and did 3 wells on Hydes and 1 well on CK&M; need to rebid other 2 wells.

Presenting to OWEB board on post-fire grants at their 7/26 meeting.

Hosted booth for SE Cascades Forest and Fire Project Outreach.

BLM has a NEPA approved fuel break project, but private lands need to be incorporated and Leigh Ann is applying for ODF Landscape Resiliency funding for this project.

#### Project Coordinator Update:

KDD Irrigation Efficiency – secured additional \$226,727 to finish KDD laser leveling project. One of three fields complete and about 2/3<sup>rd</sup> complete on second field. Third to be completed in fall of 2023. As part of funding, 25% of grain on these fields will be left for waterfowl. Flow meters will be installed on water turnouts to monitor water savings.

Buck Camp BDA and Riparian Planting: Installation of 24 BDA/PALS occurring this week on about a half-mile reach. Requested in-water work period waiver to begin work to complement Bailey Flat LTPBR phase 2 project.

Lowland Farms Wet Meadow Project: 107 acre wet meadow restoration adjacent to Klamath River. Work completed in early May. Three C10 head gates, three flashboard risers, 4,000 feet of fence and 2,000 yards of fill for levee improvements.

Mark delivered custom Ranch sign to Shirley Kerns and learned about history of their property near Lower Klamath Refuge. A card was signed at the meeting and mailed afterward.

OWEB Off-Channel Livestock Wells: Closed and submitted final report for first well project on Crooked Creek. For his remaining 2 properties only one trough remains to be installed.

#### Ongoing and Potential Projects:

Lost River Ecological Resiliency Process – large scale planning effort to identify restoration potential in the Lost River Basin from the uplands down to Tule Lake Sump.

KDD District Wide Effort – seeking better ways to manage water in the district and refuges with a small group of partners

Whisky Creek BDA installation mid-August – occurring after BDA installation at Buck Camp

Develop Sprague oxbow project for FY24 funding – could be incorporated into other work on Sprague as part of Big Swing proposal or a stand-alone project

#### Grants and Projects Administrator Update:

Scouted new locations to transplant Wocus in late May with the assistance of Roger S. and his boat. Held off transplanting in 2023 due to FWS liason being on assignment in Alaska, to identify potential new locations, and to monitor success of 2022 effort.

Jeff hosted a booth at World Migratory Bird day where he taught kids (and adults) about bird adaptations before they got to build-a-bird with art supplies.

Updated board on pollinator project. The five properties have had variable success, which will direct our planting efforts in the future. Success has been higher where plants have had more watering and less competition from weeds. Milkweed will be a focus of future plantings.

Discussed the weed program where the county sprays and the potential to make changes or scrap the program altogether. Need has outgrown funding and the grant takes more time to manage than funding provides.