**Klamath Watershed Partnership Board Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2025**

**Members Present:** Roger Smith, Ashton Greer, Anne Wenner, Karl Wenner, Matt Walter

**Member Absent:** Ryan Hartman

**Quorum:** Yes

**Staff present:** Bill Lehman, Jeff Kerber, Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Mark Johnson, Sam Fletcher

**Others present:** Shahnie Rich

**General Funding Update:** Approximately $4.6m of Federal funding was frozen from the end of January up until last Friday; the BIL and IRA funding is now unfrozen. KLLT closed, and donated $34,000 to KWP. KWP is has donated $2,400 to Klamath Union High School Digital Media program, and $20,000 to the OIT Foundation for student interns to support the USFWS Wildlife Refuge Complex.

**January minutes:** Karl moved to approve, Anne seconded. Motion passed.

**Bank Statements:** Bill presented a screenshot of the Edward Jones account, money market account, and checking account.

**Grants pursued:** Between January and May of 2025, over $5.7m has been pursued.

**Grants Secured:** Over $194,000 of funding was secured this last quarter. Jeff presented charts with total funding acquired per quarter, total funding available per quarter, total funding available by year, and operational funding available by year. Roger suggested looking into more species-focused grants as USFWS funding becomes more uncertain. Karl suggested OCRF grants as well.

**Budget:** Ashton moved to approve, Roger seconded. Motion passed.

**Project Manager Update:** Leigh Ann has been working on reforestation in the Bootleg and 242 fire areas. For the Bootleg, 406,840 seedlings have been planted across 1,769 acres with 45 landowners. For the 242, 200,080 seedlings were planted over 767 acres, with 12 landowners. There were also two grant applications submitted; a NFWF grant for Fre-Win prescribed fire for $449,000, and an OWEB grant for Copperfield Wildfire Restoration for $198,000. The OWEB 242 and Bootleg grants will be closed out this Spring. Site prep will also continue for the ODF Disaster Relief grant for additional Bootleg properties. Leigh Ann is also working on more riparian work on the Upper Williamson, planning with ODFW for juniper removal in the Lost River.

**Project Coordinator Update:** Piezometers installed in Jack Creek since November are monitoring groundwater through a $411,000 OWEB grant for Spotted Frog habitat. Mark is currently soliciting bids for technical assistance in assessing further restoration needs. For the Wing Watcher Wetland/Lake Ewauna project, the $3m in BIL funding was released. Geotechnical analysis was completed in early March to inform 60% project design. Initial drawdown of the wetland began in mid-April to alleviate levee erosion and help seed germination. The Dairy Ag Weland project funded by USFWS Partners was successfully completed, resulting in a 13 acre wetland in an agricultural field with a pivot. A similar wetlandproject with the same landowner is planned for the FY 2025.

**Grants and Projects Administrator Update:** Jeff has been working on several grant applications; including two OWEB small grants for approximately $15,000 each, an Outdoor Education Planning grant for $200,000 through Philanthropy Northwest, and four USFWS partners grants- a Pollinator project for $35,000, Lake Ewauna Swale Enhancement for $40,000, Modoc First Foods and Pond Enhancement for $34,000, and Sprague riparian work for $267,000. Ongoing projects includetwo upcoming educational outreach events, Wocus transplanting in May and June at Lakeside, Modoc Nation, and the Sprague River/Beatty area. Jeff is also coordinating plant deliveries with USFWS.

Sam Fletcher: Several grants Sam had been providing support for have been frozen up until last Friday. She has been providing support for quarterly grant reporting, as well as continuing outreach through attendance of LKL, Lost River, and Wetland Working Group meetings. KWP applied for funding through two subcontracts; a $20,000 subcontract submitted by Willamette Resources for a NFWF grant to do outreach and TA in the Lost River area, and a $4,000 subcontract with SNW with a USFWS grant to do riparian work along Buck Creek.

**Executive Director Report:**  UKBAC funding has been unfrozen, there is an upcoming meeting next week. Many subcontractors in this group have been frustrated with management so far. Changes with UKBAC leadership and goals are likely. For the Keno Stretch Wetland work, RES will complete weed treatments and there will be a meeting next week to review the project status. The LKL Working Group meetings have continued with KWP involvement, even though KWP has still not received any funding subawards. The final report for the Biochar is in progress. The conclusion is that the biochar mix is very effective at capturing Phosphorous but scaling up filtration is cost prohibitive for most operations. There was also a conversation with Parks and Ratiff Attorneys to review several KWP documents.

**Other:** Matt brought up the upcoming Pacific Power project, which will involve installing a 500kv line from north of Bend, approximately 180 miles south to near Klamath through Chiloquin. This would affect many landowners in the area, and is something to be aware of locally. One of the proposed powerline routes would cross the Marsh, the Williamson, and culturally and environmentally sensitive areas. The lines would be at least 250 feet wide, and up to 200 feet tall.