

KWP Board Meeting Minutes October 21, 2021

Members Present: Anne Wenner, Karl Wenner, Roger Smith,
Absent: Shirley Kerns, Steve Kandra, Ashton Greer, Matt Walter

Quorum Present: No

Staff Present: Bill Lehman, Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Amber Callahan

Minutes: July minutes were read by those present but a vote is still needed to approve minutes

This board meeting was conducted in person

The board was updated on Amber Callahan. She is now a part time technician with KWP and has helped write three OWEB small grants. KWP would like to increase her salary by \$1 per hour. Present board members voted yes and are waiting for those not present to vote before this can be approved.

Bill asked the board vote to approve increasing staff insurance from \$400 to \$500. Board members present voted aye but we still need a vote from absent members.

There was a lengthy discussion about whether Leigh Ann and Bill are getting enough help to relieve their current and future workloads, about hiring additional full time staff, and what skill sets that staff would need. Bill and Leigh Ann will be discussing this between themselves further and come back to the board with recommendations. It was determined that KWP is financially able to pursue more staff hiring.

Financials/Other: See attached. Grant Funding Updates for April 1–October 31, 2021 were presented. 8 grants have been secured and 1 application to OWEB was declined. Total secured operational funds including wages, travel and admin total \$495,349.

There is funding over the next two years available to hire another staff person full time. The financials and grants secured documents were approved by the board that was there but a quorum was not present for full approval.

Project Manager Report-Leigh Ann Vradenburg:

See attached. Leigh Ann updated the board on the following:

1. Harmony Preserve- largely untouched by Bootleg Fire. Some funding has been secured but the large OWEB grant was not awarded. Logging has been delayed due to lack of loggers but there will be ongoing hand cutting.

2. Lakeside Farms- Great progress has been made on this project. Macro and micro topographic work will continue. Shady Pine across the highway is another project where infrastructure will be improved to create a wetland and it should start in early November.

3. Lost River Ranch- this is a large fencing project plus erosion control funded by FWS. We will hopefully begin fencing this fall.

4.242 Fire- one month left of work.

5.Bootleg Fire- key partners are still engaged in fire management so there are many unknowns at this point but Leigh Ann is involved in ongoing meetings and discussions about future management options. Funding through the FWS of \$100,000 to address critical habitat for bull trout on Green Diamond property is secured but NEPA has delayed work on the ground. An OWEB grant for \$75,000 will reimburse work done since July 2021. Work will commence this fall but not as much as originally hoped for.

Executive Director Report-Bill

Lehman:

Bill Lehman gave a summary of meetings attended, outreach venues, etc. See attached

- July 30 there was a drought-related forage pest management workshop.
- The Biochar test project is operational and there are plans to expand it.
- Off-stream watering- in March a group formed to address stock water availability during drought. KWP has received some of this funding from FWS for three projects and additional funds are likely in the future.
- Pollinator Plots on private lands have secured funding.
- Beaver grant- Post-assisted log structures to simulate a beaver dam on the Sprague and Sycan will be installed in locations based on tribal suggestions.
- Ganong erosion and instream habitat on the North Fork of the Sprague- planting is ongoing.
- Lonesome Duck- planting is ongoing.

Roger Smith and other attendees discussed the destruction of riparian fencing in wildfires as the biggest impediment to riparian restoration success. Keeping cattle out of riparian areas post fire requires additional oversight and fence repair and maintenance. The potential for seeking contract funding and hiring someone on a contractual basis to monitor fencing was brought up for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Next meeting-TBD

Minutes submitted by: Anne Wenner