

KWP Board Meeting Minutes July 30, 2020

Members Present: Anne Wenner, Karl Wenner, Roger Smith, Erin Cox, Matt Walter

Absent: Shirley Kerns, Steve Kandra

Quorum Present: Yes

Staff Present: Bill Lehman and Leigh Ann Vradenburg

Minutes: April minutes were read and approved

This board meeting was conducted via phone with all attendees having access to KWP financials, minutes and other materials as email attachments for review and approval.

Financials/Other: See attached. Grant Funding Updates for April-July were presented. Karl commented that the wage and admin totals are both robust. Bill noted that expiration dates for most grants were included in the report this quarter. The PPE funds have not been spent yet. Bill mentioned the potential for an NRCS-RCRP Alternative funding grant of \$6.2 million over 5 years. We will know this summer and the start date is December 2020.

Proposed Budget: accounting fees are high because they include the potential for a federal audit. Members of the board expressed kudos to staff for running approximately one million dollars through the organization moving forward. Erin asked whether the COL increase was done on a scheduled basis and Bill explained that he changed the budget to July to line up with OWEB's schedule. The board discussed whether the proposed COL increase of \$1 per hour was sufficient. Bill will look at comparable figures and come up with a salary proposal by the next board meeting. Leigh Ann noted that OWEB funding may be tenuous for the near future.

The financials and grants secured documents were approved by the board.

Project Manager Report-Leigh Ann Vradenburg:

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

1. Kerr Tailwater Small grant- this is the last small grant OWEB awarded for this fiscal year.

2. Stream Classification -OWEB grant #2 was awarded in June and the last day in the field is July 31.

3. Lakeside Farms- Dustin Taylor is doing mapping and collecting additional data. Refuge staff are especially interested and actively involved because of the proximity to Hanks Marsh. In Shady Pine there is a similar project ongoing to reduce water use via pumping.

4. Lost River Ranch-Poe Valley- Partners for Fish and Wildlife may have \$166,000 for fencing, flood irrigation improvement and stream restoration.

5. USFWS Funding: There are five new projects See attached.

6. Weed Grants: \$30,000 in RAC money is available for weed abatement in the Lost River, the first grant for this area in the last five years. Bill and Leigh Ann mentioned that it would be great to find other ways to utilize weed grants besides spraying. Karl noted that there is no alternative for yellow iris.

Executive Director Report-Bill Lehman:

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

1. Beaver Dam Analog: Spencer Creek is the project area and it was chosen because of the potential of salmon reoccupying it after dam removal. A recent OIT graduate is working with KWP on the study. Roger noted that there are many beavers on Spencer Creek already but Bill clarified that the study is for assessing the best locations for dams. Roger expressed concern regarding the lack of biological input in regards to the engineering model. He expressed concern that the opportunity to install beaver dam analogs in Spencer Creek may be the driver of the work, rather than the need. Bill and Erin clarified that the model is meant to show what can be done and where beaver dam analogs would work from an engineering perspective. The USFWS requested the work to be done in Spencer Creek first. Bill offered to clarify with the group, and meet again to discuss further. This is a project funding a student to assess the work and could use some work, and there is still more drone analysis to be done.

2. Biochar: Delaney Forestry Solutions has been working on alternative biochar blends. The best combination has been biochar and dolomite. A filter will be installed on Walker Brothers Farms this fall. Bill has applied for a conservation innovation grant from Sustainable NW/OSU Extension to look at soil amendments using algae and biochar. Erin is also involved in a related project.

3. Watershed Action Plan Outreach: Ongoing. Leigh Ann has been reviewing the plan. A copy for the board should be available in a few months.

Miscellaneous: Bill presented some figures on projections for OWEB that show a concerning range of potential funding reductions for 2021. Capacity funding will be cut but not deleted and council support is not known.

Staff hiring was revisited and is going to be necessary but Covid is making Bill and Leigh Ann move very cautiously in that direction.

Karl mentioned the importance of the multiplier effect and economic benefits to the community for work KWP is causing to be performed. If we get \$6 million from the Merkley fund it needs to be publicized.

Leigh Ann mentioned an additional grant secured for \$54,000 for fencing on Long Creek/Green Diamond.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Next meeting-TBD

Minutes submitted by: Anne Wenner