

KWP Board Meeting Minutes April 23, 2020

Members Present: Anne Wenner, Karl Wenner, Shirley Kerns, Roger Smith, Steve Kandra

Absent: Erin Cox and Matt Walter

Guest: Kasey Johnson

Quorum Present: Yes

Staff Present: Bill Lehman and Leigh Ann Vradenburg

Minutes: January 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. Kasey Johnson attended as a potential new board member and introductions were made.

Financials/Other: See attached. Grant Funding Updates for January-April 2020 were presented. A total of \$829,273 remains. Karl Wenner suggested that dates of grant expiration be shown as well as the total amount of the original grant. Bill agreed and this will be in place by the next board meeting.

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

COVID Update: Bill updated the board on how KWP is operating with COVID restrictions. Leigh Ann works from home and Bill is in the office. The building is locked to all visitors. Most field visits have been delayed.

Project Manager Report-Leigh Ann Vradenburg:

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

1. Chiloquin Community Fire Project -the OWEB grant is delayed for work around Collier Park because the State Parks Dept uses lottery money and their budget is still unknown. If not funded this cycle, it will likely be delayed two years. Currently only a little clean up is ongoing. NRCS had about 25 landowners sign up and there is a chance of another deadline for signups occurring in the future. Leigh Ann also described a new NRCS program that works more like a grant. KWP would be partnering with them and Lake County Watershed Council and ODF over a five year period and would share 5-6 million dollars. It is considered a good chance to work with NRCS without overly burdening or relying on

them. There is no admin associated with this grant, however, so expenses like Federal audits would not be covered. The grant amount can be used as a match for OWEB grants. Bill asked Leigh Ann to provide more details on how the budget is set up and the board agreed that admin costs need to be carefully observed.

2. Stream Classification -OWEB grant #2 is on hold due to postponement of the awards until lottery profit figures are known. Monitoring grant #1 is finishing up. If the delayed grant is not awarded before the summer, field work will likely be delayed for the season.

3. Lakeside Farms- Ca Waterfowl Association is conducting surveys of the property. Sucker rearing potential in the spring on the property is in the early stages of exploration. Partners for Fish and Wildlife has approved a \$566,000 five year proposal and Leigh Ann will work with the Tule Lake Refuge staff on implementation.

4. Lost River Ranch-Poe Valley- Partners for Fish and Wildlife may have \$166,000 for fencing, flood irrigation improvement and stream restoration. Roger asked for clarification on the type of restoration and Leigh Ann clarified that it is not for fish but for improving river function.

5. Sand Creek- a small grant project to increase forest health by reducing conifers in aspen areas through thinning. May occur in the fall.

6. Kerr Tailwater- on hold due to OWEB grant award postponement.

7. Weed Grants: \$13,468 DOA grant to control yellow flag iris on Lakeside Farms and to conduct surveys for other areas of infestation was awarded. Spraying will be contracted out and commence when iris is in full bloom or shortly thereafter. Leigh Ann created a flyer about the iris and distributed it. A drone will be used to facilitate surveys. RAC grant money was detailed. There is between \$30 and 45,000 available for weed control in Sprague, Keno and Lost River.

8. See attached for details on NRCS NWQI

Executive Director Report-Bill Lehman:

Bill Lehman gave a summary of meetings attended, outreach venues, etc. See attached. He and Leigh Ann also referred back to the Grant Funding Update slide and noted that the FEMA grant is at least a year out. Bill also described the SMA loan application process and the board agreed that this was an appropriate action to have taken.

1. Beaver Dam Analog: Spencer Creek is the project area and OIT is working with KWP on the study. Karl commented on how much he supports working with OIT and how important Beaver Dam analogs (and beavers) are. 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.
2. Biochar- Fall implementation. Bill mentioned a Biochar Soil Amendment study that will look at the effects of adding biochar to fields. Bill expressed concern about NRCS's capacity to take this on. KWP will offer local support.
3. Fencing at Lonesome Duck will commence in the summer.

4. Watershed Action Plan Outreach: KWP is doing the primary outreach and there is a meeting planned for April 24. This led to a further conversation about KWP's ability to handle their current workload and what sort of additional staffing support would be needed. Bill and Leigh Ann will continue to discuss and report back to the board.
5. Merkley Funds- over \$1 million may be secured in funding by KWP this year. \$35,000 has been requested for the Ganong project. That amount is not confirmed but should be known in about two weeks.
6. Modoc Point Projects- see attached

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Next meeting-TBD

Minutes submitted by: Anne Wenner