**Klamath Watershed Partnership Board Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2025**

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

**Member Absent:** Ryan Hartman. Dani Watson is no longer a member of the board.

**Quorum:** Yes

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

Bill discussed finding new board members and current board positions, and the lack of a Treasurer.

Karl motioned to appoint Ashton Greer as the new Treasurer, Anne seconded. Motion passed.

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

**Bank Statements:** Bill presented a screenshot of the Edward Jones account. Bill is looking at shorter-term options for the advance Leigh Ann received for the new ODF grant so it can generate interest. Roger suggested using a small amount of money to pay an individual or group to monitor previously installed riparian fencing and report on maintenance needs.

**Grants pursued:** Eight new funding opportunities were pursued, with requests totaling $5.5 million.

**Grants Secured:** Over $4.7 million in grant funding has been secured, including BIL Lake Ewauna, OWEB Jack Creek Spotted Frog, OWEB Bengard Ranch Stream Restoration Feasibility, BLM RAC Canyon Rim Fuel Break, USFS RAC Clover Creek Fuel Break, and ODF Disaster Relief grants. Bill presented the Grants Secured Spreadsheet. 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.

Bill recommended an increase of $100 per employee for the insurance stipend starting in the current pay period.

Karl moved to approve the current budget as it stands, Anne seconded. Motion passed.

**Project Manager Update:** Leigh Ann secured $1.2 million from ODF in Disaster Relief funding for restoration and reforestation in the Bootleg Fire area. This project includes 47 landowners, and 1,800 acres of reforestation planned for this Spring. So far this winter, two water gaps on Green Diamond’s Longbell property were completed, piles have been burned for Bootleg and forest thinning projects, two wells on the Upper Williamson were installed before funding ran out, and riparian plantings on Leonard and Brownsworth Creeks were completed. This Spring, there is approximately 2,600 acres being reforested.

**Project Coordinator Update:** For the Jack Creek Spotted Frog project, Mark had piezometers installed to monitor groundwater response to BDA’s. There is a plan for long-term monitoring to be done by USGS. An additional $3 million has been allocated to the Lake Ewauna/Wingwatchers project. Soil samples have been collected for chemical analysis and seed bank sampling, and a geotechnical analysis of grading and structure locations has also been completed. They are currently exploring a lease option with the County in lieu of a landowner agreement. The Dairy Ag Wetland project was completed in November, which created a 13-acre wetland in an agricultural field with a pivot.

**Grants and Projects Administrator Update:** Jeff shared the updated De-Minimus rate, which increased from 10% to 15% as of October 1, 2024. There were pollinator plantings completed on the Swanson property, this funding is almost spent. There were also restoration plantings along the Lake Ewauna shoreline, there is about $19K of work left on this project. For potential projects, Jeff is working on a pond enhancement and first food revegetation project with Modoc Nation. Jeff is also working on a small grant for a well pump for Bauersfeld, and one for a wetland development project. There is also a project being developed for Wocus planting at Modoc Nation, Sprague, and Lakeside properties.

Sam Fletcher: Has been working on taking over more administrative duties, including working with Julie and wrapping up financial reporting for all 30+ USFWS Grants at the end of December. Also working to develop a project on a property along Upper Klamath Lake.

**Executive Director Report:**  Bill has been working with the “Big Swing” UKB Ag. Collaborative on developing incentives for landowners in the Sprague, including easements and lease options. RES has completed a Basis of Design for the TuleSmoke club, as a part of the Keno Stretch Wetland work. The NRCS subcontract through Wallowa Resources is ongoing, but with limited direction. There are plans to extend the timeframe and request additional funding. The Lower Klamath Lake Working Group has been meeting, but KWP is still waiting on funding from KDD. The board discussed soliciting the services of a lawyer with the amount of project money KWP is dealing with, just to ensure KWP and the board members are protected from any liability, and to ensure everything is done correctly.