

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HOOD RIVER WATERSHED GROUP**

The Board of Directors met on October 17th, 2023.

The meeting was held at the OSU Extension Center Conference Room, 2990 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River, OR.

The meeting was called by the Board of Directors.

The notice for the meeting was given more than seven days in advance in writing via email.

The directors present for the meeting were Sam Doak, Greg Short, Lillian Dick, Chuti Fiedler, Hilary Doulos, and Chuck Gehling. Alexis Vaivoda, Les Perkins, and Felipe Mendez were absent.

The other people present at the meeting were Cindy Thieman, Executive Director, and Alix Danielsen, Restoration and Outreach Project Manager of the Hood River Watershed Group.

A quorum was present because six directors on the Board were present for the entire meeting.

Chuck Gehling, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

### **I. Welcome, Agenda, & Minutes**

- a. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda – none
- b. Review and Adopt September Meeting Minutes – Sam moved, Greg seconded, and the board resolved to approve the September minutes.

### **II. Financials**

- a. September Expenses – The board reviewed expenses for September.
- b. Treasurer report on bank account reconciliation (September) – Les was absent; Cindy will ask Les to provide a report to the board via email on his review of the reconciliation report.
- c. Quarterly Financial Statements – The board reviewed the statements.
  - i. Statement of Activity by Class – Cindy reviewed income and expenses for the third quarter.
  - ii. Statement on Financial Position – Cindy shared the financial position statement.
  - iii. Budget to Actuals – Cindy reviewed the Budget to Actuals through 9/30/23. Most actual project income and expenditures are at 75% of the budget forecast, showing that HRWG is on track with its projected annual budget.
    1. Chuti asked about leftover CTWS funding and using it for other materials/projects. The budget modification process through BPA is complicated and the Tribes can carry this money forward into next year instead.
    2. Chuti asked about a Watershed Group vehicle. Cindy reviewed this possibility, but found that the average total mileage reimbursement for the organization wouldn't cover the cost of annual insurance and maintenance. Lil suggested leasing a vehicle, like CTWS does through the GSA program. Cindy will investigate leasing a vehicle during field season.

III. Contracts & Project Updates

- a. FIP Application Submission – Cindy reported that the FIP application was submitted on Friday evening and she is pleased with how the application turned out. The total request for the three-biennium proposal is approximately \$10.1 million. The applicant interview will be in March and awards will be announced in April.
  - i. Sam asked about when funds would be available following an award. Cindy explained that the funding is spread out among partners and individual partners need to submit grant applications for each project. Partners could submit project grants as early as next July and funds could become available as soon as October or November of 2024. If awarded, HRWG does not anticipate FIP project funding until 2025.
- b. Upcoming OWEB grant applications – HRWG will likely not submit applications for this open solicitation round.
- c. Upcoming Contracts
  - i. Bear Creek Bridge Engineering – Cindy explained that there will be upcoming contracts for construction oversight for the Bear Creek project that will be communicated via email in November.

IV. Community Engagement – Annual Celebration

- a. Tickets are available for purchase on the website.
- b. Cindy asked if anyone would be interested in helping with several tasks during the celebration. Staff will send out an email with specific tasks/timeline so people can sign up.

V. Staff Reports & Director Updates

- a. August-September staff reports were emailed to the board prior to the meeting.
- b. Sam shared that County Commissioners approved moving forward with a carbon climate contract. This will ensure that county forest management will stay consistent over time and increase funds for future forestland purchases. Cindy will investigate whether a Watershed Group presentation from the County Forester may be possible in the future.
- c. Greg noted that fishing has slowed down, and Bonneville fish-count numbers have declined.
- d. Lil shared that CTWS is moving along with a new monitoring technician on board. Spawning surveys are complete.
- e. Chuck shared that he helped with the FID and EFID fish salvages.

**Next Board Meeting:** December 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The Annual Celebration is November 9<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Signature of Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Doak