

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

The Board of Directors met on July 25, 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, Les Perkins, Chuti Fiedler, Lillian Dick, Felipe Mendez, and Chuck Gehling. Alexis Vaivoda and Hilary Doulos 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 4:30pm.

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Agenda & Minutes
 - a. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda – none
 - b. Review and Adopt May Meeting Minutes and July decision via email – Les moved, Greg seconded, and the board resolved to approve the May minutes and July decision via email.
- III. Financials
 - a. May and June Expenses – the board reviewed the expenses and there were no questions.
 - b. Treasurer report on bank/credit card reconciliation (March - June) – Les reviewed and confirmed the reconciliation.
 - c. 6-month statement of activity, statement of financial position, & budget to actuals
 - i. Cindy walked the board through the statement of activity by class (January – June 2023), the statement of financial position as of June 30th, 2023, and the budget to actuals through June 30th, 2023.
 - ii. Chuti asked about donations by individuals and Cindy explained we have received several donations by check and by the website donation button.
- IV. Contracts & Project Updates
 - a. Lower East Fork Hood River Design contract (update)
 - b. Baldwin Creek Project – Blue Sky grant and upcoming design RFP (update)
 - i. Alix gave an overview of the project, an update on receiving the Blue Sky design grant, and a proposal to combine the Baldwin Creek design process with the Lower East Fork design contract with Tetra Tech. Combining the design

processes will save significant time and funding, and the projects are hydrologically connected at the confluence and above.

- ii. Greg moved, Lil seconded, and the board resolved to combine the Baldwin Creek design process with the Lower East Fork Tetra Tech design contract.
- iii. Alix will request an updated scope from Tetra Tech to include the Baldwin Creek design. When a draft contract is ready, Cindy will send it to the board for approval via email.
- c. Tony Creek Project Implementation (update)
 - i. Alix gave an update on the final design, implementation process, timeline, and permitting.
 - ii. Several board members are interested in seeing the project before and after implementation. Alix will send out emails to the board about possible times, preferably at the end of the day (4pm) mid-week.

V. FIP Grant Application Presentation

- a. Cindy walked the board through the FIP grant application presentation, highlighting potential projects included in the work plan.
- b. Sam asked what the differences may be in the likelihood of receiving the FIP this round as opposed to last year. Cindy explained that the proposal was ranked high, but there was a lot of competition, and the board ultimately made a decision in favor of FIPs focusing on coastal coho and oak restoration.

VI. Capacity

- a. Cindy explained that she made the decision to not hire a summer intern due to uncertainty with Tony Creek funding and timing, but there is a need to expand capacity and Cindy would like to hire a third staff member this fall. Cindy will review the budget and projected funding and develop a draft position description.

VII. Board & HRWG Meeting Schedule

- a. The board reviewed the proposed schedule below and approved it as proposed.

Tentative Upcoming Board & HRWG Meeting Calendar

Month	Meeting
2023	
August	None
September 26	Board meeting & HRWG meeting (Tony Creek Fish Passage presentation)
October 17	Board meeting (quarterly financials, 2024 board slate)
October 24	HRWG meeting (Hood River Fire History Study)
November TBD	Annual celebration
December 12	Board meeting (board 2024 elections, annual budget approval)
2024	
January 23	HRWG meeting via Zoom
February 27	Board meeting (2023 financials) & HRWG meeting via Zoom

March 26	HRWG meeting
April 16	Board meeting (quarterly financials)
April 23	HRWG meeting
May 28	HRWG meeting
June 18	Board meeting?
June 25	HRWG project tour
July 23	Board meeting (quarterly financials)
August	None
September 17	HRWG project tour (third Tuesday instead of fourth to allow for more daylight)
September 24	Board meeting
October 15	Board meeting (quarterly financials, 2025 board slate)
October 22	HRWG meeting
November	Annual celebration
December 10	Board meeting (board 2025 elections, annual budget approval)

VIII. Staff and Board Updates

- a. Les explained that the NRCS Director visited FID last week, to encourage streamlining of watershed plan approval. Today the NRCS Western Director and the State Conservationist, Ron Alvarado, visited FID and EFID.
- b. Chuti shared that the Mt. Hood Forest is on the national priority landscape list for wildfire preparedness. There is a group working on the strategy for this effort that will develop over the next few years.
- c. Lil shared that creel finished on Punchbowl.
- d. Greg shared that the RMEF banquet was successful, with ~ 110 ppl in attendance and about a net raise of \$45,000.
- e. Felipe shared that On-Site is partnering with the SWCD for more education and technical assistance. Felipe also shared that On-Site is having a customer appreciation event on August 4th from 11am-1pm.
- f. Chuck shared that he participated in the puncturevine pull at the Port with the City and the SWCD. There were four days scheduled but all the puncturevine was covered in one day, so the other days were cancelled. Chuck also shared that the Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited newsletter had a good legislative update with a lot of opportunities for funding and program expansion.

Next Board Meeting: September 26th, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, followed by the HRWG presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Signature of Secretary:  Date: 1/20/23
 Sam Doak