

Regular Meeting Minutes

**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Special Board Meeting
April 19, 2022
10:00 am**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Marc Staunton, the President, called the Special scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDRA) to order on Thursday, April 17, 2022, at 3:33 pm at KWUA boardroom at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the on-line conference platform called Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Sam Henzel, Paul Crawford, Ryan Hartman, Rob Unruh, and Mike McKoen. Luke Robison is absent.

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Mike Neuman, Pat Nue, Paul Simmons, Rod Owens, Moss Driscoll, Haley Grohs, Hannah Whitley, Bill Ganong, Marc VanCamp, bard Kirby, Scott White, John Crawford, Nick Grounds, and Tracey Liskey.

Public Comment

None

Marc Staunton asks Brad Kirby to update the board on the status of the current operations, which will assist in decision-making during the meeting. The districts are working in conjunction with each other to allocate the 50,000 acre-feet of water supply. Brad stated that the district managers have formed a joint-draft plan and will present the plan to their respective boards and then to Reclamation. They intend to operate the Project to a lake target. He stated that it would be helpful if the DRA would have a partial season program that would specifically target 8,000 acres in KDD, freeing up the equivalent of 12,000 acre-feet of water. Scott White of KDD stated that the districts that adaptively manage water cooperatively with the DRA would play an important role in making the district managers' plan work. Marc Staunton asked Pat Nue to display his working spreadsheet for budget purposes to see if this request is feasible.

Pat displayed the spreadsheet. Marc VanCamp stated that at the last meeting, Ryan Hartman asked what the administration costs were per application when speaking about the 1,500 "less than 5 acres" plots. Marc stated that per acre for the CARES program, the cost was about \$.64; for the Non-Irrigation, the cost was about \$2.89. Ryan stated that these acres are a real issue of discontent in the district. Mike McKoen asked, "what if DRA reimbursed O&M to KID's billing and not map it. Mike Neuman stated that as far as Reclamation was concerned, they are not qualifying water this season, so it would work for them. He continued that it would need to be a policy, not a new program that would pay O&M reimbursement. Mike McKoen stated that this would be beneficial as the DRA for example, could pay 300% of the O&M cost for each acre, then KID could shut the whole ditch down and use that water further. The Districts could submit a single "district application" to the DRA. The board seemed to be in consensus that this would be best. Ryan will confer with Gene for his thoughts since he is not present.

The board discussed changing the 5-acre rule to 4 acres mapped, and 4 acres and below would qualify for the 300% O&M reimbursement, not a per acre. Bill Ganong reminded the board that there the Warren Act contractors, Enterprise ID, KBID, SVID, and MID, would not be getting water at all. After a lengthy conversation, Nathan Ratliff suggested that the board could adopt the 4-acre No-Irrigation program; they could then come back and amend the policy to include 4 acres and below. This will keep things moving and allow for the district manager to give feedback on 4 acres and below. The board was in consensus with his statement.

Under section B. Eligibility, item 5 subsections a & b. the board reviewed the following from the last board meeting. The red indicates proposed changes from last meeting.

5. The parcel must be:

a) For parcels located on what is commonly known as the "West Side" of the Project (shown by the diagonal hatched area indicated on the attached map), identified as having a water right in the Klamath Project according to the Klamath River Adjudication Amended and Corrected Findings of Fact and Final Order of Determination for Claim

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Numbers 321-6, 321-17, 293 or 323-3, or an exception filed thereto, as set forth on the official maps generated by the Oregon Water Resources Department identifying those lands or an exception filed thereto; or

b) For parcels located on what is commonly known as the "East Side" of the Project (shown by the cross hatched area indicated on the attached map), designated by a perpetual contract with the United States for water from the Klamath Project.

This wording will exclude the Klamath Hill Drainage District from the programs. Exceptions to the ACFOD are not mapped but can be included.

The board discussed the deadline to apply for the program will be June 15, 2022, at 5 pm. There will be a policy clause that indicates all checks must be cashed within six months, or the applicant forfeits payment.

The board also discussed putting a dollar payout figure to the acres prior to applying, limiting the acres needed to enter the program. (once the acres in applications are achieved, the program will close). Rob Unruh stated that this would allow people to plan ahead; Paul Crawford, Sam Henzel and Mike McKoen all shared his thought process.

Nathan Ratliff stepped out of the meeting temporarily, but continued to participate via telephone; Paul Simmons suggested the following: Partial Season Program, available in KDD only:

- Per-acre payment: \$18 M divided by the number of approved acres, not to exceed \$225 per acre.

A Full-year: everywhere else except KDD:

- Per-acre payment: \$18.2 M divided by the number of approved acres, not to exceed \$450 per acre.

The \$18.M will increase by any "surplus" from step 1, adjustments based on "4 acres and below" participation, give applicants information on participation from last year.

The President called for a five-minute recess at 6:10 pm. Nathan Ratliff returns to the meeting, meeting resumes at 6:15

Motion: to adopt and implement no irrigation policy as discussed, and set forth in the draft document posted to the board, to include a winter irrigation program in accordance with 2021 draft policy, using November 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022 as the permissible irrigation dates for winter program eligibility, and to state that eligible winter irrigation applicants will be able to receive 50% of the amount paid to eligible full season participants. The policy shall state that no more than \$450 per acre shall be paid to eligible full season applicants. Marc Staunton shall be delegated authority to review and give final approval to policy after drafting by staff, and staff is directed to take steps to proceed with roll out of program.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Ryan Hartman

Roll call:

Sam Henzel-Aye

Paul Crawford-No

Ryan Hartman-Aye

Rob Unruh-No

Mike McKoen- Aye

Marc Staunton-Aye

Motion Carried.

Rob Unruh stated that he voted no as he feels how the policy is written will cause issues for Warren Act Contractors that are not getting the option to receive any water. Paul Crawford stated that he too voted no as he feels it will not extend the season. He believes some will not sign up as it's written, and it will reduce the amount of funds available to Warren Act Contractors. He does not like the idea of a partial season program as it will take away from funds available for the full season program.

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Motion: To authorize Mike McKoen to approve advertising or public notice materials relating to roll out and to spend up to \$5k for program advertising.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Sam Henzel

Roll call: Unanimous

Motion Carried.

Marc Staunton leaves the meeting, Mike McKoen presides over the meeting.

Discussion included types of advertising. For now, it will be on the website, and KWUA will promote it. Staff will work within the budget and look at cost-related to radio station PSA, newspaper, and the cost of doing a paper mailer or a mass email to all past applicants.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:07 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary