Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
September 11, 2024
1.00 pm

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Marc Staunton, the President, called the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDRA) to order on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 1:12 pm at KWUA boardroom at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the online conference platform called Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Paul Crawford, Scotty Fenters, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Dustin Bohn, Kelsey Gill, Alley Doelle, Trey Ingram, Mike Shatto, Mrs. Shatto,Debbie Duncan, Regina Jackson, Mike Neuman, and Kyle Knutson.

Agenda

The board approved the proposed amended agenda by consensus.

Public Comment

Debbie Duncan reported her verifications for Pioneer Irrigation District, She shared her concerns regarding Sean Kerr's water usage and eligibility for funding. Nathan will look into this issue.

Financials

Nathan reviewed the bills and proposed approving the outstanding invoices, with plans to review an audit in the next meeting. Nathan will email out the audit again for review.
Motion: Motion to approve pay the outstanding invoices.
Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters
Roll call: All vote Aye

Receive Report Regarding 2024 Program Administration

Kelsey Gill reviewed the 2024 program administration report, which was presented by MBK, who reported that all applications had been reviewed since the last meeting. MBK presented the current status of applications categorized by size, focusing on categories #5 (withdrawn)and category #12 ineligible due to irrigation history. MBK discussed the eligibility of two farms, KDR240532 and KDR240399, which were withdrawn, totaling 75.2 acres. MBK staff concluded that some parcels in category #12 were not eligible due to their irrigation history and the fact that they were not part of a program.

2024 KPDRA Assistance Program Summary by District and Season

Irrigation District / Water Provider	Full Season				Partial Season			
	Applications		Acres		Applications		Acres	
	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved
Enterprise Irrigation District	11	11	477	402.4	0	0	0	0.0
Horsefly Irrigation District	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Klamath Basin Improvement District	63	62	3649.4	3,491.5	0	0	0	0.0
Klamath Drainage District	34	22	2541.6	2,248.1	17	17	4973.4	4,895.5
Klamath Hills District Improvement Company	1	0	11	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Klamath Irrigation District	216	196	9089.1	8,005.6	3	1	650.4	469.0
Langell Valley Irrigation District	1	0	93.4	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Malin Irrigation District	38	37	1819.1	1,736.8	0	0	0	0.0
Midland District Improvement Company	1	1	26.2	24.9	0	0	0	0.0
Pine Grove Irrigation District	6	6	109.5	103.6	0	0	0	0.0
Pioneer District Improvement Company	11	9	180.6	157.0	0	0	0	0.0
Plevna Irrigation District	3	3	819.8	804.6	0	0	0	0.0
Poe Valley Improvement District	2	2	404	144.9	0	0	0	0.0
Shasta View Irrigation District	43	42	2260.1	2,130.7	0	0	0	0.0
Sunnyside Irrigation District	5	4	192.9	152.3	0	0	0	0.0
Tulelake Irrigation District	89	85	6991.5	6,530.2	3	2	249	140.6
Van Brimmer Ditch Company	21	20	1047.9	1,008.5	0	0	0	0.0
Other (WA): Klamath River, UKL, etc.	4	2	3116.3	421.8	0	0	0	0.0
Total	549	502	32,829.4	27,362.9	23	20	5,872.8	5,505.1

Discussion ensued about the staff's recommendation of denials in category #3, late applications. One application filed by Ingram was submitted to the board. After discussion, there was no motion to move the application to another category. Mr. Ingram expressed concerns about the strict deadlines for the water bank deal, which led to the rejection of several applications due to

late submissions.He suggested reconsidering the policy, proposing to extend the deadline with a penalty for late applications. He also criticized the program's potential for abuse and the lack of transparency in the decision-making process. Mr.Ingram emphasized the importance of his water rights and the impact of the decision on their livelihood, expressing frustration and disappointment over the rejection of their application. The board discussed various methods they have used in the past, such as postcards, radio ads, and website updates, some questioned whether these were sufficient. The board also considered the possibility of using funding to make phone calls to applicants. They acknowledged the need to reconsider their approach due to concerns about communication effectiveness.

Debbie Duncan, a board member from Pioneer, shared her concerns about the verification process and her methods of checking properties. She also brought up an issue with Sean Kerr, who was reportedly watering a small piece of land that was not part of his application. The board agreed to look into this matter. The conversation ended with the suggestion of using the Mailerlite program. Chelsea Shearer can set up free and other communication channels to inform water users about the application process.

Funding

The board discussed the challenges faced by their organization, particularly in relation to funding and program management. They highlighted the importance of securing multi-year grants to avoid delays and ensure a stable funding source. The board emphasized their goal of keeping overhead costs low by hiring third-party staff and engineers, was a priority. The board questioned Mike Neuman of Reclamation on projects that they approved to come out of the $10 million other than DRA, which is only receiving $9.2 Million. He indicated there was a project for modernization for Langel Valley and TID, as well as Reclamations Administrative labor costs and some groundwater projects.

Motion: To Authorize Marc Staunton to approve and execute documents necessary to apply for extension/modification of existing grant agreement with BOR for the purpose of funding 2025 and subsequent irrigation year programs
Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters
Roll call: All vote Aye

Program Funding

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:00 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled as a later date.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton_____, President

Approved: Rob Unruh_____, Secretary