240Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
December 10, 2024
2:00 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 Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 2:08 pm at KWUA boardroom at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the online conference platform called Zoom.

ROLL CALL
Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Ty Kliewer, Rob Unruh, Paul Crawford, Scotty Fenters, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Kelsey Gill, Kyle Knutson, Mike Neuman, Cheresse Wilson, Rick Rodgers, and Gene Souza

Agenda
The board approved the proposed amended agenda by consensus. Item #7 was moved to follow item #5.

Public Comment
None

Financials & Minutes
The board discussed the financial reports and invoices, but there are some discrepancies and confusion around the dates and program years covered. They decide to table approving the financials until the next meeting, when the accountant can provide clarification. The board did, however, approve the bills and invoices for payment.
Motion: To Motion approve the bills and invoices presented.
Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters
Roll call: All vote Aye

The board approved the meeting minutes except for September's, which needs to be amended to include the full motion text. Upon review of the finances, date errors were recognized. Nathan stated he would plan to have the accountant attend the January meeting to go over the financial reporting format and ensure it aligns with the program years.

Motion: To Motion approve the Financial report and Minutes as corrected.
Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters
Motion withdrawn.

The board approved the meeting minutes except for September's, which needs to be amended to include the full motion text. They plan to have the accountant attend the January meeting to go over the financial reporting format and ensure it aligns with the program years.

Motion: To Motion approve all the minutes presented except the September minutes.
Motion by: Scotty Fenters Second: Mike McKoen
Roll call: All vote Aye

Discuss Additional Funding
Paul Simmons with KWUA discussed the ongoing negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding funding for various programs. The discussion revolved around a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would allocate $43 million dollars over five years, with the potential for more funding if certain programs prove successful. The programs include long-term contracts with

producers, incentivizing innovative practices, and funding for infrastructure. KWUA also mentioned the possibility of reducing irrigated acres and the potential for buying out contracts for private lawns (eg. Sports fields, and school fields). The MOU needs to be signed by January 10th, and the programs would need to be in place by January 20th. The funding would be for a five-year period, with the contracts potentially spanning multiple years.

Motion: To Motion to Authorize Board President to execute MOU for Drought and Ecosystem Programs at the Klamath Project under the Inflation Reduction Act as presented.
Motion by: Scotty Fenters Second: Mike McKoen
Roll call: All vote Aye

Receive Report Regarding 2024 Program Administration

Kelsey Gill reviewed the 2024 program administration and discussed the status of various applications for irrigation. Kelsey presented a chart detailing the status of each application, including those that were withdrawn, denied by the district, or pending review. The board suggested sending a letter confirming the withdrawal of one application and explaining the reasons for the denial. Kelsey also presented evidence for application-pending reviews, including power records and USGS imagery. The team agreed to review each application individually, with Kelsey recommending approval for one application based on the provided evidence. Kelsey led the discussion, with Nathan providing some context on the status of applications in categories 5, 7, and 10.

2024 KPDRA Assistance Program Summary by Category

	Application Categories	Applications	Applied Acres	Approved Acres
1	Approved In Full	219	13,228.0	13,227.5
2	Approved In Part	302	21,584.4	19,609.8
3	Late Application	11	312.5	-
4	Less Than 4 Acres	13	42.9	-
5	Withdrawn	14	674.6	-
6	Outside FOD	4	170.3	-
7	District Denied	2	38.0	-
8	Pending Review	0	-	-
9	District Ineligible	1	93.4	-
10	District Partially Denied	2	13.9	10.0
11	Federally Owned Lands	2	2,530.4	-
12	Ineligible - Irrigation History	2	13.8	-
	Total	572	38,702.2	32,847.3

Category 5- Withdrawn. No action needed KDR240113 - McFarland Ranches, LLC

Category 7- District Denied. KDR240071 – James Surane (KID) KDR240493 – Brooke Boyes (KID)
Motion: To Motion to deny application in Category 7 recommended for denial by staff in presentation by spreadsheet.
Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Paul Crawford
Roll call: All vote Aye

Category 10 – District Partially Denied- KDR240415 – Sean Kerr (PDIC). Staff recommend the removal of 2 acres that were irrigated. KDR240519 – Matthew & Denise Howard (KID) (Pending). Kelsey discussed an issue with a parcel of land that remained unirrigated around a house, despite the surrounding pasture area being irrigated. The applicant confirmed this, but KID, the verifier, could not specifically confirm whether the area around the house remained unirrigated. Kelsey also mentioned the issue of clear boundaries and whether this parcel would be ineligible due to that. The team discussed the parcel's eligibility for the small parcel program and the potential for it to be included in that. They also discussed the policy regarding the historical irrigation of the land and the potential for the parcel to be eligible if it met the criteria. The team agreed to further investigate the issue and possibly remap the parcel based on 2024 imagery.
Motion: To Motion to partially approve application 240415 (Kerr) in Category 10 as recommended by staff in the presentation.
Motion by: Paul Crawford Second: Scotty Fenters
Roll call: All vote Aye

Category 8 – Pending Review KDR240117 – Richard Rodgers. Kelsey stated there was no District to verify. Recommend for approval by power records & satellite imagery. KDR240519 - Matthew & Denise HowardKDR240024 - Denis P. Hickey & Jesse D. Hickey, LLC; KDR240384 – Scott White (Klamath Drainage District)

Motion: To Motion to partially approve applications 240117, 240519 as presented, 240024 and 240384
Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Scotty Fenters
Roll call: All vote Aye
Kelsey discussed the unpaid annual assessment fees for Shasta View and Malin irrigation districts. She mentioned that there were 8 total applications, with 6 in Shasta View and 2 in Malin, and that 6 planned to pay this week. One application had not answered the phone, and another was waiting for dra money to pay the district. Kelsey suggested that the district should be sent the check first, and then the rest of the applicant. The issue was discussed further, with the group suggesting that the district should be sent the check first, and then the rest of the applicant. They agreed to wait for confirmation from Shasta View and Malin that the checks are good to go out.

Motion: To Motion to Approve Applications recommended for approval by staff in presentation by spreadsheet.
Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Paul Crawford
Roll call: All vote Aye

The meeting wrapped up with a discussion of the 2024 program payment rates and the distribution of funds. Kelsey presented the AI calculator, which was updated with the total available funding and the funds available for distribution. After some discussion, the board agreed to payment rates of $280 per acre for the full season program and $140 for the partial season program, leaving a contingency budget of $15,000. Staff will get checks processed with expected distribution via USPS mail the week before Christmas.

Motion: To Motion to Authorize Payment of approved Full Season applications at $280 per acre and $140 per acre for approved Partial Season applications.
Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Paul Crawford
Roll call: All vote Aye

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:52 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for January 8, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton_____, President

Approved: Rob Unruh_____, Secretary