

# Regular Meeting Minutes

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**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency  
Special Board Meeting  
April 9, 2021  
2:00 pm**

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Marc Staunton, the President, called the regular scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDRA) to order on Friday, April 9, 2021, at 2:04 pm at KWUA boardroom at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the online conference platform called Zoom.

## **ROLL CALL**

Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Luther Horsley, Luke Robison, Jerry Enman, Paul Crawford, Rob Urnuh, and Mike McKoen  
Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Paul Simmons, Kyle Knutson, Gene Souza, Nathan Ratliff, Bill Ganong, Moss Driscoll, Mike Neuman, Dan Scalas, and Marc VanCamp  
Media Presence: Alex Shwartz with Herald and News

## **Discussion/decisions regarding continuation/termination/suspension of 2021 Groundwater Program**

Marc Staunton stated that he chose to call a special meeting based on the announced limited groundwater and surfacewater available and how that could change the programs offered.

Nathan Ratliff stated that he and Dan Scalas are working together with Reclamation to prepare the application for the Grant. The draft Scope of Work is being worked on. However, it has been put on hold until the DRA board discusses and decides on if a groundwater pumping program will be put in the grant application. Dan Scalas stated that the comments received back from Reclamation are minor. They plan to submit the application by next Tuesday. The application will request \$20 Million dollars; however, that is not the official offer, as it appears that some lesser amount will be available

Mark VanCamp stated that there are 22 groundwater wells that are good candidates for monitoring the aquifers. OWRD suggests that 10-12 wells be monitored in a certain location. These well logs are needed for the sustainability part of the Groundwater Program.

No action taken at this time.

## **Discuss the status of water supply, funding, grant status**

Moss Driscoll with Reclamation stated that next week they plan on announcing the water supply and the DRA funding amount. Marc Staunton asked if we could just include the program and "shelf it" and focus on land Idling. Both Rob and Luther agreed they like having the flexibility to have the program ready to go if needed.

Luke Robison stated that it is very likely that not every acre will receive water; he believes the funding should be split up amongst those acres. It's anticipated that less than 1/10 of the historical water supply will be available this year. Moss urged the Board to get the application in ASAP.

Section 10 needs to be reviewed before submission. Reclamation is requesting that the DRA should abstain from paying anyone in a District that does not comply with the 2021 operations plan. Paul Crawford was against this language, stating that it's not right to punish someone whose District goes rouge and takes water. Paul continued to state that he does not believe that the program is aligning supply with demand.

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Marc Staunton stepped out of the meeting, and Vice President Eman takes over. Jerry asked the Board what they would like to do with a groundwater program (GWP). Luke suggests that the DRA defer the focus of details of the GWP and focus on helping with grant material for land idling. Nathan stated that a grant modification could take place if the DRA does not offer a GWP. Then those funds can be moved over to the idling program with another modification form.

Marc Staunton rejoins the meeting, and Paul Crawford and Luke Robison leave the meeting.

Jerry stated that he believes that he and Marc can reword the paragraph, so it's not so "directive." The Board discussed that Jerry, Marc, and the legal team would work on the language in the given time frame.

**Motion: Motion to authorize Jerry Enman and Marc Staunton to review and approve grant application for submission in relation to requested Bureau inclusion of provisions presented.**

**Motion by: Mike McKoen                      Second: Rob Unruh**

**Marc Staunton calls for vote:**

Jerry Enman: Aye

Rob Unruh: Aye

Mike McKoen: Aye

Luther Horsley: Aye

Marc Staunton: Aye

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carried.**

The board consensus is that the DRA continue the process as it is. Mike McKoen state he feels that the DRA owes it to the public to let them know about the inclusion of provisions by Reclamation. Jerry stated that if the funds from Reclamation are less than \$14 million, he will not support a GWP. McKoen agrees and stated that many of his constituents do as well.

## **Discuss / Approve Action regarding 2021 Program Roll-Out, Next**

The Board agrees to use last year's application, change the date, and only offer full-season land idling. The staff was directed to prepare applications for next week.

## Public Comment

None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm.

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion by: Mike McKoen                      Second: Rob Unruh**

**Motion Carried.**

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton \_\_\_\_\_, President

Approved: Rob Unruh \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary