

Regular Meeting Minutes

**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Special Board Meeting
June 27, 2023
2:30 pm**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Marc Staunton, the President, called a special scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDRA) to order on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 2:35 pm at KWUA boardroom at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the online conference platform called Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Fred Simmons, Rob Unruh, Tim O'Connor, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Kyle Knutson, Gene Souza, Mike Neuman, Pat Neu, Bill Ganong, Ron McGill, Cherise Wilson, Dustin Bohn, Scotty Fenters, and Paul Simmons

Marc Staunton thanks MBK Engineers for the execution of the program and the hard work they have done.

Update regarding No Irrigation Program Participation

Nathan Pat Neu stated that they have released the program applications. They had workshops in Merrill and Klamath over a period of 2 days; they collected 39 applications and saw about 50 people total. Many took applications home to complete. To date there are 506 applications received, of which 250 were received in the last three days. A total of 34,388.8 applied acres.

Marc Staunton asked when staff would have the interactive mapping live on the website so that districts could start verifying. Pat stated that he should have that up in 1-2 weeks, along with pending acres verified so that districts can start.

Marc and Gene Souza both expressed their surprise at the number of acres that applied in the Klamath Irrigation District. Gene asked to have the maps asap so they can start verifying. Pat stated that the payout potential is \$122,045.79. Pat said that by the July meeting, he expects to be able to have the maps done.

The board discusses sending out letters verifying that applications were received. Denial letters will go out after the next board meeting. Pat stated that there were some Langell Valley applicants, and he personally called them and let them know they did not meet the eligibility criteria. Staff will send out formal denial letters to them as well. The board consensus was to mail out letters stating that the application was received along with the mapping tool details so that applicants could check the acres ahead of time, which would speed up the process of verification issues.

Consider Action to Deny Ineligible Applicants

The agenda item was skipped.

Consider Additional 2023 Program Necessity

The partial season clause was never removed for the grant; therefore, there is nothing to vote on.

Review Status of 2022 Funding and Consider Roll Over of Funds for 2023

Nathan Ratliff stated that MBK staff has nearly finished the 2022 final report. There is some accounting that needs some clarification and they are working on that. The ASAP grant is locked up; no additional reimbursements can happen now that it's closed.

Mike Neuman stated that to award more than \$6.3 million, they need a variance according to the Enhancement Act. While \$7.9 million was the initial amount reported available for the program, it is now between \$6.5 - \$7.5 million. He stated that by his number, the DRA is short about \$5 million to their need, and he will work that up his chain of command.

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Paul Crawford stated that with the unexpected acres enrolled and not enough funding, should the board ask KWUA to pressure Reclamation for a drought plan? He continued that, most likely, Reclamation will issue one sooner or later. Do they pressure for it now for planning purposes? The board did not have any comment on this subject, and Paul Simmons of KWUA stated that if they want KWUA to do that, he needs to know by 1 pm tomorrow.

Pat Nue stated that he will try to get the mapping done by the end of the week so the DRA can see how many acres may be eliminated.

Mike Neuman gave an update on item 5.a. for long-term grant approval. He stated that this year's program would be rolled into the 5 year program. Therefore he needs to also know this year's number of acres and the 2022 carry-over number. He wants to make sure the carry-over funds are used this year or next. Nathan stated it's estimated that there is \$1.95 - \$2 million in carry-over funds. Nathan added that there were added checks for the 2022 program, \$10,000 to Molatoes for the Audit, \$28,579.97 to MBK for April/June work, \$2,325 to Isler Co. for accounting, and a few others. He will include these checks for approval and ratification at the next meeting.

It was confirmed that receipt letters will go out once the mapping tool is online and ready to use.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Mike McKoen

Roll call: Unanimous

Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary