

# Regular Meeting Minutes

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**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency  
Special Board Meeting  
May 2, 2023  
2:00 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, May 2, 2023, at 2:07 pm at the KWUA boardroom at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the online conference platform called Zoom.

## **ROLL CALL**

Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Rob Unruh, Tim O'Connor, Paul Crawford, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Kyle Knutson, Kyle Staunton, Marcy Anderson, Brad Kirby, Gene Souza, Mike Neuman, Pat Neu, Bill Ganong, and Paul Simmons

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Discussion & Authorize Action regarding the 2023 Program**

Marc Staunton opened the conversation with the current Project water allocation of only 215 thousand acre-feet (TAF). He stated that his constituents are pressuring many board members to come out with a dollar amount per acre. Gene and Brad concurred and encouraged the board to develop a program that would pay \$450 per acre with a goal of 20,000 acres enrolled in the program. Kyle Knutson suggests the program deadline as June 15. Mike Neuman stated that he had just gotten the procurement package to the Denver Grants office. It has been delayed as there were many attempts to add funds to the program. It could take months to get it approved. However, Reclamation will act as if it was approved. The package was submitted as a 5-year program, so there will not be this issue again for a while. Brad expressed his discontent with Reclamation and the need to start an irrigation program before there is no water.

Kyle Knutson stated that staff could hold workshops; they just need time to plan it. Rob Unruh asks the board what actions will be taken for small acreage and Eastside. Gene stated he feels a small acreage program is needed with an allocation of only 215 TAF. However, he is not sure if that program will create more water. If he kept A3 closed (which caused a lot of problems last year), it could save water; however, he would only do that if the project was in dire need. Gene stated if the DRA feels a small acreage program is needed, then he will run it. Gene does not think that the program will save any water in KDD. He is afraid that politics will run the program and it won't save any water if A3 is open. He also stated that verification would be expensive with having water in the suburban area ditches. Paul Crawford stated he does not feel that there needs to be a small acreage program this year. Rob Unruh stated that he thinks the DRA should have a program, and make it optional; the districts have the choice to enter and give a 3% overhead allowance for Districts.

The program could allow for the reimbursement of assessments for parcels less than 4 acres in size that are not irrigated. It will be the District's choice as to whether or not it wishes to participate in the program, and individual irrigators would not be eligible to apply on their own.

The discussion moved to Eastside and whether to include them in a program as they have a full allocation. Moss Driscoll joined the meeting and stated that the NRCS forecast just released, and it is down 2,000 acre-feet. The board agrees that with the current situation, the program cap should be \$450 an acre, the program would not include the Eastside, and that they should leave the small acreage program in for 2023 (for now). The Program close date will be June 15, 2023.

**Motion to: Authorize Board Member Marc Staunton to approve 2023 No Irrigation Program Materials, based upon the 2022 Program Documents presented and discussed by the Board, with the following items as required:**

**-Small Acreage Program, with 3% Overhead Allowance to the District, with District election to participate**

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- East Side excluded due to full allocation
- Use June 16, 2023 as a deadline
- Include "postmarked" or "received by" KPDR language for applications

Motion by: Rob Unruh                      Second: Mike McKoen

Discussion: Paul Crawford wants to see the small acreage program removed mainly because of how it reflects on KDD and the lack of water savings.

Roll call: AYE: Mike McKoen, Rob Unruh, Tim O'Connor, Marc Staunton

No: Paul Crawford

Motion Carried

Motion to: Authorize \$5,000 expenditure for postcards and mailing to former program applicants

Motion by: Rob Unruh                      Second: Tim O'Connor

Roll call: Unanimous

Motion Passes

Workshops will be held May 24- 25, one being at KWUA and the other in Merrill.


The next meeting date will be June 14 . Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:33 pm.

Motion: Adjourn meeting.

Motion by: Mike McKoen                      Second: Rob Unruh

Motion Passes

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary