

Regular Meeting Minutes

**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
November 13, 2023
2:30 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 Monday, November 13, 2023, at 2:30 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, Tim O'Connor, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Kyle Knutson, Amy Chipman, Dustin Bohm, Kelsey Gill, Ray Lang, Luke Robison, Tim Parks, and Greg Carlton.

Agenda

The board approved the proposed agenda by consensus.

Public Comment

Greg Carlton is present to speak, but he will have a chance to speak later in the agenda. No other public comment

Financials

The board reviewed the current financials and did not have any questions for the accountant.

Motion: Approve the bills as presented.

Motion by: Mike McKoen

Second: Tim O'Connor

Roll call: All members vote Aye

Motion Passes Unanimously

Motion: Approve the Financials as presented.

Motion by: Mike McKoen

Second: Tim O'Connor

Roll call: All members vote Aye

Motion Passes Unanimously

Nathan stated that Ray Lang from Molatore Scroggins is here to review the audit. Ray stated that there is a complete DRA Audit through 2022 with a single CARES program audit included. There were some minor infractions found given the scope of the audit. A total of \$163,618.000 acceptable issues were found, and \$143,122.46 were found in violation. The remaining funds of the FSA program were \$53,722.5. there was \$12,600.09 of indirect costs covered through other programs, and a portion of the above indirect costs after the allowed period totaled \$7,421.34. There was \$48,543.76 of excess indirect funds that were not spent within the period. Nathan stated that he had reviewed the audit, and while the issues seemed good in the spirit of the agreement, they fell short of the audit.

Motion: Approve the audit as presented.

Motion by: Tim O'Connor

Second: Mike McKoen

Roll call: All members vote Aye

Motion Passes Unanimously

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Approve Minutes

The board was provided with minutes from May 2, 2023, April 10, 2023, and June 27, 2023 for approval. Chelsea is still working on September minutes. It was noted that in a few minutes, Fred Simon's last name was misspelled to spell out Simmons. It should be corrected.

Motion: Approve May 2, 2023, April 10, 2023, and June 27, 2023 minutes as presented and modified with the name change spelled correctly.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Tim O'Connor

Roll call: All members vote Aye

Motion Passes Unanimously

2023 Program Administration Report

Kyle Knutson stated that he has not received all the information yet from the districts. He is hoping to get the approval of the district by the next meeting and has a goal to have information finalized so payment can be awarded by year-end.

Kyle is still waiting on KDD and Van Brimmer. In Van Brimmer, there are 105.08 acres up to be disqualified once verifications come in. KID has one disqualified; TID did not disqualify any acres. There were eight applications that withdrew, totaling 424 acres. In KID, there are 100.2 acres disqualified; that number does include applications that are partially withdrawn. There is \$7.2 million in available funds, but \$1.8 million has not rolled over into 2023 yet.

There is a total of 31,605.03 acres between full and partial-season applications. With \$9 million in funds, its estimated payout could be \$305.73 for full season and \$152.86 for partial season, should the board vote to approve. After discussion, it was determined that this subject will be fully vetted in the December board meeting.

Marc Staunton stated that Greg Carlton was present at this meeting and would like to address the board about his application number, KDR230507, which was filed late. Mr. Carlton addressed the board and stated that, in good faith, he believed he had applied for the program. He reached out to the DRA when he did not receive his confirmation letter.

Mr. Carlton stated he applied via email, filled the form out, and even took a picture of the application (dated prior to the deadline). When Mr. Carlton did not receive his confirmation letter as he had in the past, he contacted the DRA. He stated that, somehow, the email did not transfer a sent copy. Mr. Carlton claimed that his internet provider was having issues. Mr. Carlton contacted Mike McKoen and Paul Crawford on the matter outside the board meeting. Mr. Carlton stated that he spent hours on the phone with AOL trying to sort out the issue with the provider, including upgrading the system, which AOL stated would resolve the issue; the email was still not in his sent or draft box. He did not irrigate. In good faith, if he was allowed to apply, he met the criteria. Marc Staunton asked the board if we can put his acres in the pending category for approval and vote when more members are here (the same members from last month are present). He asked if someone was willing to make a motion, deeming his acres "timely."

Motion: to Deem application number KDR230507 as accepted timely.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Tim O'Connor

Roll call:

Mike McKoen- Aye Tim O'Connor- Aye

Paul Crawford- No Luke Robison- Obstain

Marc Staunton- no vote

Motion dies.

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Marc Staunton stated the subject will be brought to the December board meeting. Mike McKoen thanked Mr. Carlton for his time.

Information Regarding Funding

Nathan stated that when he last spoke with Mike Neuman of Reclamation (he hoped he would be in attendance today), there was \$1.8 million in the queue, he was waiting for it to update, and then he could obligate it.

Marc Staunton stated that Matt Strickler with DOI will be meeting with KWUA tomorrow, and he intends to speak about the shortfall of funding for DRA. Paul Simmons stated that he was in Washington, D.C., last week and also spoke to many office staff about the shortfall of the program funding. He stated that staff seemed quite "surprised" there was a shortfall even though Mr. Neuman has stated he has been "communicating the shortfall" with the chain of DOI. Paul Crawford stated that this is water going to the refuge, and he would like to see monetary credit for that; it would most likely make up a part of the shortfall.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Tim O'Connor


Roll call: Unanimous vote.

Marc Staunton adjourned the meeting at 3:46 pm.

The next meeting will be on December 5, 2023 at 1:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary