

Special Worksession Meeting Minutes

**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Special Work Session Meeting
April 4, 2024, 2024
2:00 pm**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Marc Staunton, the President, called the special work session of the Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDRA) to order on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 2:00 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, Scotty Fenters, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Moss Driscoll, Dustin Bohn, Gene Souza, Bill Ganong, Mike Neuman, Brad Kirby, Paul Simmons, and Kyle Knutson.

Agenda

The board was presented with the agenda. The board approved the proposed amended agenda by consensus.

Scotty Fenters was sworn in by President Marc Staunton as representative for the Klamath Drainage District. The board discussed the process of being appointed to the board. Paul Simmons stated that the agency send a notice to the board as well as the represented district 25 days prior to the three-year term being completed.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Discussion on Development of Long-Term KPDRA Programs

A discussion led by KWUA's Water Policy Director, Moss Driscoll, ensued about potential long-term KPDRA programs, which would include funds from the Enhancement Act and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Moss stated that there are two pots of money that could be utilized for funding long-term programs. The Enhancement Act is capped at \$10 Million dollars, while the IRA broadly authorizes mitigation programs to the areas affected by drought. The focus should revolve around securing IRA funds. Gene Souza stated that he sees three points to focus on: (1) Crops to market, (2) Mitigate the unknowns, and (3) Promote economic stability. Marc Staunton asks the group what the slope of the program should be. Bill Ganong distributed a ready-made program developed years ago called the On-Project Plan. He reviewed the ideas that were vetted then but reminded the group this was pre-adjudication when the plan was developed. Paul Simmons added that this would not "kick in" until there is a solid water allocation.

Scotty Fenters gave some suggestions which require meters and technology (RCPP program). Gene and Mike McKoen stated that sounds interesting but the problem is that the KPDRA doesn't have the capabilities to administer that type of work nor do they have the technology to monitor that sort of water savings program. Marc Staunton agreed that there needs to be a bigger scope that would not require more manpower to run the program.

A conversation ensued as ideas were discussed, such as the RCPP concept and the CREP program. Moss Driscoll stated that the CREP program is generally structured around permanent land retirement. While the RCPP program is more about conservation programs around water savings. Mike McKoen stated that a program like the CARES program that we could administer along with having cover crops would be ideal.

Moss feels there is a large uncertainty with the CREP programs, while RCPP programs may be more attainable.


Staff is directed to write a one-page paper outlining a pilot program that would include (1) a 3-5 year program, with a 2-3 year option as well. (2) able to move acres around. (3) able to have a cover crop.

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Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:44 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary