

Regular Meeting Minutes

Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
August 27, 2024
11:00 am

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 Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 11:08 am at KWUA boardroom at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the online conference platform called Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Rob Unruh, Paul Crawford, Scotty Fenters, Ty Kliewer, and Mike McKoen
Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Dustin Bohn, Kelsey Gill, Andy Nichols, Gene Souza, Mike Neuman, and Kyle Knutson.

Agenda

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

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Financials

Nathan reviewed the bills and proposed approving bills, invoices, and a financial report, which was delayed due to Amy's absence. An updated financial report was promised for the next meeting. The 2023 program audit was submitted, so now the auditor can focus on 2024. 2023 reports will be completed next month.

Motion: Motion to approve the financials and pay invoices.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Paul Crawford

Roll call: All vote Aye, Ty Kliewer (no vote, not present)

Receive Report Regarding 2024 Program Administration

Kelsey Gill reviewed the 2024 program administration report, which was presented by MBK, who reported that all applications had been reviewed since the last meeting. MBK presented the current status of applications categorized by size, focusing on categories #4 (under 4 acres) and #5 (withdrawn). A new category #12 was introduced.

Discussion ensued about the staff's recommendation of denials in category #4, mainly pivot corners and requiring contiguous acres for category #4, and discussed ambiguities in determining irrigated areas on a map, potentially leading to misinterpretation. It was suggested applicants should prove irrigation capabilities should these non-contiguous acres be allowed to avoid increasing administration costs.

Motion: To deny Applications identified in Categories 4 (Less than 4 Acres), in accordance with the spreadsheet presented by MBK.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: All vote Aye

11:38 pm Mike Neuman joins the meeting.

MBK Staff then discussed withdrawn applications, including three from the previous year and one from a farmer suspected of using a neighbor's irrigation water. Nathan Ratliff stated that he has sent letters to all the districts reminding them of the importance of real verifications. MBK agreed to add the withdrawn Staunton Farms application to the list and to provide an updated PDF with details on the impact of withdrawn applications per the board's request.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Category 12 was added which encompassed lands not watered in the last three years. MBK indicated that out of approximately 25 applications in category 12, around 25% might not meet the criteria regarding irrigation history.

Motion: To deny Applications identified in Categories 12 (Ineligible- irrigation history), in accordance with the spreadsheet presented by MBK.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Paul Crawford

Roll call: All vote Aye, Ty Kliewer (no vote, not present)

Kelsey discussed the inclusion of public map layers for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 in the website. She explained the process of adding these layers was relatively easy due to already having the 2022 and 2023 public maps. It was suggested that three years of data would be sufficient for their needs, as it would cover the eligibility period for most programs. It would be beneficial to give a three-year baseline, even though it may not cover everything. It was asked if there was a way to track if the website maps were being used. MBK confirmed that they didn't have a way to track the map's usage but had received a few inquiries about adjusting the map. They also clarified that the map automatically updates when an application is withdrawn.

MBK will send letters out today on actions taken in the categories presented.

Program Funding

Kwua and Mbk discussed the report and funding related to a certain program. Mbk reported that the total available funding remained the same as last time, with reduced engineering and legal budgets, and the same accountant, insurance, and contingency funds. They also mentioned a reduction in requested funds for the small parcel program due to a decrease in the number of acres. Kwua thanked Mbk for the information and asked if there were any further questions or comments. Mbk then asked for clarification on whether to investigate Tally Ho farms' applications that may not have been irrigated in the past three years. Kwua agreed and asked Mbk to reach out to Tally Ho and check for other similar cases.

Funding Extension and Water Conservation


The board discussed the funding for the upcoming years, stating that there would be no changes to the 2024 grant. Mike Neuman stated that a new agreement has been extended through 2025, with a new application required for 2026-2029. The new application would need to be processed by early October. Nathan recommend that at the next board meeting the new agreement is voted on.

Mike Nueman stated that the DRA could ask for 9.5 million, as they are continuing to use the authority under the Enhancement Act which uses \$500,000 for some of the longer-term FCA stuff to promote water conservation, but have not yet obligated more than half a million of the 10 million flat asked. A question was raised about switching to a different authority for the funds, to which Mike responded that they don't have another authority that gives them explicit authority to do what they're doing.

Marc Staunton stated that Paul Simmons and Kwua are still working on IRA funds and is making progress for future years. Marc asked Nathan to start the drafting of a modification for 2025 so it can be reviewed by the board.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:12 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 11, at 1:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved: Rob Unruh *Rob Unruh*, Secretary