

Regular Meeting Minutes

240Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
December 10, 2024
2:00 pm

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Marc Staunton, the President, called the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDR) to order on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 2:08 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, Rob Unruh, Paul Crawford, Scotty Fenters, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Kelsey Gill, Kyle Knutson, Mike Neuman, Cheresse Wilson, Rick Rodgers, and Gene Souza

Agenda

The board approved the proposed amended agenda by consensus. Item #7 was moved to follow item #5.

Public Comment

None

Financials & Minutes

The board discussed the financial reports and invoices, but there are some discrepancies and confusion around the dates and program years covered. They decide to table approving the financials until the next meeting, when the accountant can provide clarification. The board did, however, approve the bills and invoices for payment.

Motion: To Motion approve the bills and invoices presented.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: All vote Aye

The board approved the meeting minutes except for September's, which needs to be amended to include the full motion text. Upon review of the finances, date errors were recognized. Nathan stated he would plan to have the accountant attend the January meeting to go over the financial reporting format and ensure it aligns with the program years.

Motion: To Motion approve the Financial report and Minutes as corrected.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters

Motion withdrawn.

The board approved the meeting minutes except for September's, which needs to be amended to include the full motion text. They plan to have the accountant attend the January meeting to go over the financial reporting format and ensure it aligns with the program years.

Motion: To Motion approve all the minutes presented except the September minutes.

Motion by: Scotty Fenters Second: Mike McKoen

Roll call: All vote Aye

Discuss Additional Funding

Paul Simmons with KWUA discussed the ongoing negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding funding for various programs. The discussion revolved around a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would allocate \$43 million dollars over five years, with the potential for more funding if certain programs prove successful. The programs include long-term contracts with

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producers, incentivizing innovative practices, and funding for infrastructure. KWUA also mentioned the possibility of reducing irrigated acres and the potential for buying out contracts for private lawns (eg. Sports fields, and school fields). The MOU needs to be signed by January 10th, and the programs would need to be in place by January 20th. The funding would be for a five-year period, with the contracts potentially spanning multiple years.

Motion: To Motion to Authorize Board President to execute MOU for Drought and Ecosystem Programs at the Klamath Project under the Inflation Reduction Act as presented.

Motion by: Scotty Fenters Second: Mike McKoen

Roll call: All vote Aye

Receive Report Regarding 2024 Program Administration

Kelsey Gill reviewed the 2024 program administration and discussed the status of various applications for irrigation. Kelsey presented a chart detailing the status of each application, including those that were withdrawn, denied by the district, or pending review. The board suggested sending a letter confirming the withdrawal of one application and explaining the reasons for the denial. Kelsey also presented evidence for application-pending reviews, including power records and USGS imagery. The team agreed to review each application individually, with Kelsey recommending approval for one application based on the provided evidence. Kelsey led the discussion, with Nathan providing some context on the status of applications in categories 5, 7, and 10.

	Application Categories	Applications	Applied Acres	Approved Acres
1	Approved In Full	219	13,228.0	13,227.5
2	Approved In Part	302	21,584.4	19,609.8
3	Late Application	11	312.5	-
4	Less Than 4 Acres	13	42.9	-
5	Withdrawn	14	674.6	-
6	Outside FOD	4	170.3	-
7	District Denied	2	38.0	-
8	Pending Review	0	-	-
9	District Ineligible	1	93.4	-
10	District Partially Denied	2	13.9	10.0
11	Federally Owned Lands	2	2,530.4	-
12	Ineligible - Irrigation History	2	13.8	-
	Total	572	38,702.2	32,847.3

Category 5- Withdrawn. No action needed KDR240113 - McFarland Ranches, LLC

Category 7- District Denied. KDR240071 – James Surane (KID) KDR240493 – Brooke Boyes (KID)

Motion: To Motion to deny application in Category 7 recommended for denial by staff in presentation by spreadsheet.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Paul Crawford

Roll call: All vote Aye

Category 10 – District Partially Denied- KDR240415 – Sean Kerr (PDIC). Staff recommend the removal of 2 acres that were irrigated. KDR240519 – Matthew & Denise Howard (KID) (Pending). Kelsey discussed an issue with a parcel of land that remained unirrigated around a house, despite the surrounding pasture area being irrigated. The applicant confirmed this, but KID, the verifier, could not specifically confirm whether the area around the house remained unirrigated. Kelsey also mentioned the issue of clear boundaries and whether this parcel would be ineligible due to that. The team discussed the parcel's eligibility for the small parcel program and the potential for it to be included in that. They also discussed the policy regarding the historical irrigation of the land and the potential for the parcel to be eligible if it met the criteria. The team agreed to further investigate the issue and possibly remap the parcel based on 2024 imagery.

Motion: To Motion to partially approve application 240415 (Kerr) in Category 10 as recommended by staff in the presentation.

Motion by: Paul Crawford Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: All vote Aye

Category 8 – Pending Review KDR240117 – Richard Rodgers. Kelsey stated there was no District to verify. Recommend for approval by power records & satellite imagery. KDR240519 - Matthew & Denise Howard KDR240024 - Denis P. Hickey & Jesse D. Hickey, LLC; KDR240384 – Scott White (Klamath Drainage District)

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Motion: To Motion to partially approve applications 240117, 240519 as presented, 240024 and 240384

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: All vote Aye

Kelsey discussed the unpaid annual assessment fees for Shasta View and Malin irrigation districts. She mentioned that there were 8 total applications, with 6 in Shasta View and 2 in Malin, and that 6 planned to pay this week. One application had not answered the phone, and another was waiting for dra money to pay the district. Kelsey suggested that the district should be sent the check first, and then the rest of the applicant. The issue was discussed further, with the group suggesting that the district should be sent the check first, and then the rest of the applicant. They agreed to wait for confirmation from Shasta View and Malin that the checks are good to go out.

Motion: To Motion to Approve Applications recommended for approval by staff in presentation by spreadsheet.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Paul Crawford

Roll call: All vote Aye

The meeting wrapped up with a discussion of the 2024 program payment rates and the distribution of funds. Kelsey presented the AI calculator, which was updated with the total available funding and the funds available for distribution. After some discussion, the board agreed to payment rates of \$280 per acre for the full season program and \$140 for the partial season program, leaving a contingency budget of \$15,000. Staff will get checks processed with expected distribution via USPS mail the week before Christmas.

Motion: To Motion to Authorize Payment of approved Full Season applications at \$280 per acre and \$140 per acre for approved Partial Season applications.


Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Paul Crawford

Roll call: All vote Aye

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:52 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for January 8, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton _____, President

Approved: Rob Unruh  _____, Secretary

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**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
September 11, 2024
1.00 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 Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 1:12 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, Scotty Fenters, and Mike McKoen

Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Dustin Bohn, Kelsey Gill, Alley Doelle, Trey Ingram, Mike Shatto, Mrs. Shatto, Debbie Duncan, Regina Jackson, Mike Neuman, and Kyle Knutson.

Agenda

The board approved the proposed amended agenda by consensus.

Public Comment

Debbie Duncan reported her verifications for Pioneer Irrigation District, She shared her concerns regarding Sean Kerr's water usage and eligibility for funding. Nathan will look into this issue.

Financials

Nathan reviewed the bills and proposed approving the outstanding invoices, with plans to review an audit in the next meeting. Nathan will email out the audit again for review.

Motion: Motion to approve pay the outstanding invoices.

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: All vote Aye

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 #5 (withdrawn) and category #12 ineligible due to irrigation history. MBK discussed the eligibility of two farms, KDR240532 and KDR240399, which were withdrawn, totaling 75.2 acres. MBK staff concluded that some parcels in category #12 were not eligible due to their irrigation history and the fact that they were not part of a program.

Discussion ensued about the staff's recommendation of denials in category #3, late applications. One application filed by Ingram was submitted to the board. After discussion, there was no motion to move the application to another category. Mr. Ingram expressed concerns about the strict deadlines for the water bank deal, which led to the rejection of several applications due to

2024 KPDRA Assistance Program Summary by District and Season								
Irrigation District / Water Provider	Full Season				Partial Season			
	Applications		Acres		Applications		Acres	
	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved
Enterprise Irrigation District	11	11	477	402.4	0	0	0	0.0
Horsefly Irrigation District	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Klamath Basin Improvement District	63	62	3649.4	3,491.5	0	0	0	0.0
Klamath Drainage District	34	22	2541.6	2,248.1	17	17	4973.4	4,895.5
Klamath Hills District Improvement Company	1	0	11	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Klamath Irrigation District	216	196	9089.1	8,005.6	3	1	650.4	469.0
Langel Valley Irrigation District	1	0	93.4	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Malin Irrigation District	38	37	1819.1	1,736.8	0	0	0	0.0
Midland District Improvement Company	1	1	26.2	24.9	0	0	0	0.0
Pine Grove Irrigation District	6	6	109.5	103.6	0	0	0	0.0
Pioneer District Improvement Company	11	9	180.6	157.0	0	0	0	0.0
Plevna Irrigation District	3	3	819.8	804.6	0	0	0	0.0
Poe Valley Improvement District	2	2	404	144.9	0	0	0	0.0
Shasta View Irrigation District	43	42	2260.1	2,130.7	0	0	0	0.0
Sunnyside Irrigation District	5	4	192.9	152.3	0	0	0	0.0
Tulelake Irrigation District	89	85	6991.5	6,530.2	3	2	249	140.6
Van Brimmer Ditch Company	21	20	1047.9	1,008.5	0	0	0	0.0
Other (WA): Klamath River, UKL, etc.	4	2	3116.3	421.8	0	0	0	0.0
Total	549	502	32,829.4	27,362.9	23	20	5,872.8	5,505.1

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late submissions. He suggested reconsidering the policy, proposing to extend the deadline with a penalty for late applications. He also criticized the program's potential for abuse and the lack of transparency in the decision-making process. Mr. Ingram emphasized the importance of his water rights and the impact of the decision on their livelihood, expressing frustration and disappointment over the rejection of their application. The board discussed various methods they have used in the past, such as postcards, radio ads, and website updates, some questioned whether these were sufficient. The board also considered the possibility of using funding to make phone calls to applicants. They acknowledged the need to reconsider their approach due to concerns about communication effectiveness.

Debbie Duncan, a board member from Pioneer, shared her concerns about the verification process and her methods of checking properties. She also brought up an issue with Sean Kerr, who was reportedly watering a small piece of land that was not part of his application. The board agreed to look into this matter. The conversation ended with the suggestion of using the Mailerlite program. Chelsea Shearer can set up free and other communication channels to inform water users about the application process.

Funding

The board discussed the challenges faced by their organization, particularly in relation to funding and program management. They highlighted the importance of securing multi-year grants to avoid delays and ensure a stable funding source. The board emphasized their goal of keeping overhead costs low by hiring third-party staff and engineers, was a priority. The board questioned Mike Neuman of Reclamation on projects that they approved to come out of the \$10 million other than DRA, which is only receiving \$9.2 Million. He indicated there was a project for modernization for Langel Valley and TID, as well as Reclamations Administrative labor costs and some groundwater projects.

Motion: To Authorize Marc Staunton to approve and execute documents necessary to apply for extension/modification of existing grant agreement with BOR for the purpose of funding 2025 and subsequent irrigation year programs

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: All vote Aye

Program Funding

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:00 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled as a later date.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton _____, President

Approved: Rob Unruh  _____, Secretary