

Regular Meeting Minutes

**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
May 22, 2024, 2024
1:30 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 Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 1:35 pm 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, Moss Driscoll, Dustin Bohn, Gene Souza, Paul Simmons, Kelsey Gill, Heather Casillas, Scott White, Mike Neuman, and Kyle Knutson.

Agenda

The board was presented with the agenda. The President recommended Agenda moving agenda item #6 before #3 (Executive Session) so that members of Reclamation staff can be heard. The board approved the proposed amended agenda by consensus.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Receive Report Regarding 2024 Program Administration

Mike Neuman and Heather Casillas were present from Reclamation to discuss programs, and an allocation letter was sent out. Many board members expressed their frustrations over the allocation letter and directly asked Mike Neuman how it would affect the DRA program. Mike stated that "the allocation letter was not intended to change the way the DRA runs the programs." He assured the board that Reclamation intends to run the program with the same rules as last year and that there was no intention to prevent the transfer of water within a district from participating lands

Mike McKoen asked him directly, "Why can't we have a letter stating just that?" Mr. Neuman's response was "No Comment." Mike and Heather stated that Reclamation is not looking to change any past practices. Heather further stated that they are not proposing any changes to the program either. Both left the meeting at 2 pm.

Financials

Nathan stated that he will meet with Amy, she was not available as she had a family emergency and could not get bills and checks ready for today.

Financials

There are currently no minutes to approve.

Discuss and Consider Extension of Existing MBK Contract

Nathan stated that the May 28, 2021 contract with MBK will expire at the end of this month and recommended it be extended for two years. An addendum contract could extend the contract to 2026.

Motion: Motion to extend the MBK contract for two years, allowing the President or the Secretary to sign the contract.

Motion by: Rob Unruh **Second:** Paul Crawford

Roll call: All present members voted yes, with one abstention by Scotty Fenters. He would like to be able to read the documents before voting. Motion passes

Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes

There are currently no minutes to approve.

Scott White entered the meeting.

Receive report Regarding 2024 Program Administration

Dustin Bohm stated that two days of workshops were completed at the Klamath Water Users Association's office. He feels that the workshops were slow in attendance. Currently, there are 67 applications for 4,800 acres. They still have 30 or so applications to enter.

Eastside landowners inquired about being in the program, and the Program refers to the maps of the FOD. Currently, that would exclude Eastside participation. Moss Driscoll stated that Eastside is anticipated to have a full supply, and the Project does not. Some folks would like to leave water in Clear Lake, so it's just an inquiry. Marc Staunton stated that they just want clarification, but the board could allow them to participate with a vote of policy change. Rob Unruh stated that if the board allowed them in the program, they would need to send the unused water down Harpold Dam to measure and use on the Project; that is what the program is designed for. The conversation dies with no motion to change the policy.

Marc Staunton suggested MBK staff look to see how we could make changes for reusing a map from prior years applications but still be compliant with audit.

MBK staff leaves the meeting.

Marc Staunton calls an executive session at 2:28 pm pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. to discuss rights and Duty of Litigation to file with legal counsel. All guest attendees with the exception of Chelsea, Gene, and Moss leave the meeting. The board exited the executive session at 3:01 pm.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:36 pm. The next meeting will be held on July 8, at 1:30 pm.

Motion: Adjourn Meeting.

Motion by: Ty Kliewer Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: Unanimous

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary