

Regular Meeting Minutes

Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
August 9, 2023
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 Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 10:12 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, and Mike McKoen
Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Nathan Ratliff, Kyle Knutson, Gene Souza, Mike Neuman, Dustin Bohn, Kelsey Gill, and Tracey Liskey.

Agenda

The board approved the proposed agenda by consensus.

Public Comment

None

Financials

Nathan Ratliff stated that there was no time to have reports pulled for this meeting. He stated that there is \$210,000 in the bank account and one bill for KWUA for 2022 services rendered.

Motion: Approve payment of checks as presented.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Paul Crawford

Roll call: Unanimous

Motion Passes

Nathan reported on the audit status, it is not complete at this time, and RFP was sent out for end of physical year, he only received an inquiry from molators to do a 3 yr. contract instead of yearly. Nathan is expecting to see that proposal soon.

2023 Program Administration of Applications Received

Kyle Knutson reported on the 2023 program status. He stated that enrollement is high compared to what they were expecting with 34,271 acres applied in the 9 different categories. A total of 506 applications were received and preliminary there are 31,761.7 acres approved. The district season summary is as follows:

Irrigation District / Water Provider	Full Season				Partial Season			
	Applications		Acres		Applications		Acres	
	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved	Applied	Approved
Enterprise Irrigation District	8	8	234.6	226.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Horsefly Irrigation District	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Klamath Basin Improvement District	55	53	2,356.3	2,164.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Klamath Drainage District	9	9	1531	1,297.6	14	14.0	7309.1	7,086.3
Klamath Hills District Improvement Company	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Klamath Irrigation District	211	207	9,766.6	9,161.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Langell Valley Irrigation District	3	0	421	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Malin Irrigation District	38	38	1,781.8	1,721.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Midland District Improvement Company	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pine Grove Irrigation District	4	3	97.7	76.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pioneer District Improvement Company	6	6	115.8	106.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Plevna Irrigation District	4	4	860.2	845.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poe Valley Improvement District	2	2	404	402.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Shasta View Irrigation District	50	46	2,550.6	2,234.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sunnyside Irrigation District	5	5	221.4	211.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tulelake Irrigation District	78	77	5,079.7	4,869.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Van Brimmer Ditch Company	13	13	804.9	782.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other (WA): Klamath River, UKL, etc.	5	5	681.3	521.6	1	1.0	55	54.7
Total	491	476	26,906.9	24,620.7	15.0	15.0	7,364.1	7,141.0

Kyle will coordinate with with TID and KID to see if there enrollement is true to the acres applied. Marc Staunton asked with the polygon mapping will be available. Kyle stated that it will be up and current tomorrow.

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Kyle presented applications per category that staff is asking board to decide on.

2023 KPDR Assistance Program Summary by Category			
Application Categories	Applications	Applied Acres	Approved Acres
1 Approved In Full	220	12,793	12,793
2 Approved In Part	271	20,544	18,968.7
3 Late Application	2	44	0
4 Less Than 4 Acres	1	1.1	0
5 Withdrawn	5	297.5	0
6 Outside FOD	4	436.3	0
7 District Denied	0	0	0
8 Pending Review	3	155.1	0
9 District Ineligible	0	0	0
Total	506	34,271	31,761.7

Category 3 – Late Applications 1. KDR230393 – Terry Brown 2. KDR230506 – Erik Johnson
Staff recommends denial

Category 4 – Less than 4 Acres Referred to Small Parcel Program 1. KDR230384 – Angela Bennett
Staff submitted name to Gene Souza of KID to verify if this parcel should be in small acres.

Category 5 – Withdrawn 1. KDR230224 – MLM Properties 2. KDR230386 – Esteban Pizano 3. KDR230478 – William Bowman Kyle noted 2 other applications have been administratively withdrawn (duplicates of other applications received).

Category 6 – Outside FOD / USBR Contract 1. KDR230029 – Lyle Smith 2. KDR230063 – Carson & Elizabeth Merkley Family Trust 3. KDR230392 – Roy Keeton 4. KDR230477 – Ryan Kliewer
Staff recommend denial based on policy map guidelines

Category 7 – District Denied N/A at this time.

Category 8 – Pending Review 1. KDR230065 & KDR230066- Apex Farms, LLC / KDR230096 Crawford Family. Kyle stated that both applicants applied for the same ground. Nathan has will send a letter requesting them to resolve it on their own. If a resolution cannot be met the funds will be held per the policy in the courts.

Nathan stated that the Merkley Family Trust representative came to him upset about being denied. Nathan stated they received a letter that was sent out to them stating that they may be eligible for the program. Since the year prior Langell Valley was eligible, they applied for the program with out reading the policy in whole. The policy states that East Side is not eligible in 2023. They were upset and spoke with Chelsea of KWUA, Marc Staunton, and Kyle. Their family is going through a transition with the land and it has been very confusing they stated. Marc wanted to let everyone know that this issue was happening. And

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all parties they spoke with stated that based on policy it would appear that they would be denied. Marc recommended that the application be denied based on the policy written.

Motion to Deny Applications in accordance with Staff recommendations.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Mike McKoen

Roll call: Unanimous

Motion Passes

Motion to Authorize Board Member to approve form of denial letters and letters with mapping information for applicants eligible for approval.

Motion by: Paul Crawford Second: Rob Unruh

Roll call: Unanimous

Motion Passes

Nathan stated that there is about \$2.1 million to roll over from 2022, a programs. After final expenses, there should be \$1.8-\$1.9 million available to roll over. Nathan will update board once Amy is done with the numbers. Paul Crawford would like to see every available penny rolled over.

Motion to Authorize Board Member to authorize close out of 2022 grant and roll over remaining funds, and/or roll over funds via extension/modification of 2022 grant.

Motion by: Paul Crawford Second: Rob Unruh

Roll call: Unanimous

Motion Passes

Mike Nueman stated that he estimates 9 million to be available for 2024, therefore an extra 4 million is needed to meet the expectations of 12.7 million needed to satisfy the enrollment at \$450 per acre. He stated that the Enhancement Act is tapped out of funds.

Gene Souza stated that he will work the calculator but he doesn't think that KID will have as many acres as indicated, perhaps 75% reduction, but that would only increase payments by \$3.25 in his rough math processes.

At this time the board will not be able to give a dollar amount associated with this years per acre contracts.

Gene stated that on August 22, he estimated that the Project will be hitting the lake level shut off point even though they have not used 260,000 acre feet as allotted. He anticipates that Recamation will be sending that notice out around the the 22nd.

Marc Staunton stated that the DRA has asked to receive compensation for water that will most likely be moved at the end of season due to Dam removal. The letter is drafted but has not been sent. Letter will go out on a conditional qualifications.

Motion: Adjourn meeting.


Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Paul Crawford


Roll call:

The next meeting date will be September 6, 2023 . Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:47 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

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Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary