

KPDRA Regular Meeting Minutes

Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Regular Board Meeting
April 15, 2025
2:08 pm

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Paul Crawford, Board Member, called the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDRA) to order on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 2:14 pm via the online conference platform called Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Marc Staunton (interim service) Scotty Fenters, Ty Kliewer, Rob Unruh, and Mike McKoen
Guests: Paul Simmons, Dustin Boham, Kirk Young, Kyle Knuntson, Nathan Ratliff, Paul Simmons, Mike Neuman, and Gene Souza

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Review/ Approve and/ Or Ratify bills, Invoices, and Financial Reports

Nathan reviewed the bills and has submitted them to the board for approval. No Financial Reports at this time due to late submission to the accountant.

Motion: Motion to pay the outstanding bills as presented.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Scotty Fenters

Roll call: Unanimous, Marc Staunton, Scotty Fenters, Ty Kliewer, Rob Unruh, and Mike McKoen

Motion Passes

Review Minutes

No minutes to review.

Receive Report Regarding 2024 Program Administration

Nathan reported that a previously approved application had been processed and payment issued; however, the original check was lost in the mail, and a replacement check has been issued.

Nathan also shared that Chelsea Shearer (KWUA) has been receiving calls from patrons asking whether a 2025 program will be available. She requested that the Board provide an official statement to ensure consistent, timely communication to landowners and districts.

Discuss Additional Funding and Pending status of Grant Application

Paul Simmons stated that the 5-year agreement remains pending, and there has been no new update on its status. As of April 1, only approximately \$2 million may be available to backfill the current need. Paul stated that he does not anticipate funding for a 2025 program, noting that the only viable program moving forward would be the multi-year agreement program, which is still in process. He believes the next likely year for a funded program would be 2026, though this is not based on any imminent action.

Regarding the IRA funds, Paul noted that of the \$50 million earmarked, \$7 million was intended for Keno/Link River infrastructure. He believes those funds have likely been obligated already, though final confirmation is pending. He added that the Basin is currently in a temporary pause period due to ongoing ESA reassessment and reconsultation, which is KWUA's primary focus at this time.

Mike Neuman stated that his office staffing has been reduced by half and they do not currently have capacity to take on program administration work. He has elected early retirement and will transition to administrative leave later this week, with Kirk Young assuming the lead role for DRA.

KPDRA Regular Meeting Minutes

Nathan reviewed the grant agreement tied to the \$2 million referenced earlier and noted that it has very limited flexibility for use outside of the No-Irrigation Program structure. Mike Neuman commented that pursuing a new program structure would likely not pass through the DOE/DOGE process and would be a significant administrative lift. The grant would also expire in September, limiting viable implementation time.

Rob inquired whether the funds could be used for district power costs. Both Paul and Mike Neuman stated that this would require a formal amendment, and it is unlikely such an amendment would be approved by Reclamation.

Paul added that discussions are ongoing regarding the permanent demand reduction allocation (approximately \$10 million), and he expects that item to gain traction later this year. Elizabeth Nielsen and Erik Fuchs will be coordinating discussions with Alan Heck on potential allocations for 2025.

Marc Staunton asked whether the Board could make a clear statement to assist farmers and ranchers in planning. He recommended communicating that the Board is not anticipating a 2025 program due to a lack of available funding.

Paul Crawford agreed and emphasized the importance of clarifying that this decision is due to funding constraints, not a lack of Board support for a program.

By unanimous consensus (no motion required), the Board agreed that KPDRA will not operate a 2025 No-Irrigation Program.

Staff was directed to coordinate with KWUA (Chelsea Shearer) to issue a public announcement, including radio communication and digital distribution through KWUA media channels.

Nathan will update the Board next month regarding any needed action on pending grants, including the multi-year program.

Rob Unruh reminds the board that his term is coming up and he is not remaining on the board. Nathan needs to reach out to Shasta View and Malin and seek nominations for the position.

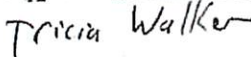
Pending status of Grant Application

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:45 pm

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton  President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary

 Tricia Walker