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Council Meeting Minutes January 11, 2018 -FINAL-

Board Members Present: Brooke Gray, Kasberger, Duncan, Beyer, John & Lynne Breese, Spateholts, Burchell, Smith, and Beier

Visitors: Natasha Bellis (DRC)

CRWC staff present: Chris Gannon and Garry Sanders

Meeting called to order at 5:03pm by Mike Kasberger

The following summary minutes capture the high points of the monthly board meeting:

0) **Introductions** Introductions were deferred as everyone present was familiar.

1) **Visitor Comments**

2) **Meeting Minutes** Two sets of meeting minutes were deferred and will be reviewed next month.

3) **Financial Report** Josh reviewed last month's fiscal reports. A large amount of funds have been paid out and staff are working on several reimbursement requests to bring funds in. Standard expenses for the month, mostly payroll and operational costs. One question about insurance payment inconsistency between check ledger and QuickBooks report. Chris reported that the UAV purchase last month with credit card was paid in full so no interest carried forward. He also noted that Opal project has BLM funds that we need to capture and begin using in near term. Roy noted that there were no deposits in December period. Reports were approved by motion and voice call (motion by Anne, 2nd by Lynne; approved unanimously).

4) **Staff Updates**

Chris - Reviewed budgets for 2018, this time it was an income view by project (snapshot of open grants and CRWC-allocated funds in each). He noted that at present, we have about two full years of expenses in secured grant agreements. New OWEB rules allow for individual grants to pay for administrative costs like rent, phones, photo-copies, insurance, and other 'overhead' type costs. Chris reviewed how OWEB requests work in terms of drawing down funds by project and budget line with a project.

CRWC Board:

Berta Youtie, *Emeritus*
Roy Beyer
Joshua Smith-Treasurer, or Jason Beebe
Ann Beier
Robert Spateholts, or Becky Burchell

Mike Kasberger-Chair
John & Lynne Breese
Bill Sigman
Brooke & Andy Gray
Russ Rhoden, or OID Alternate

Chase Duncan
Kevin Keown, or Jon Kochersberger
Scott Turo, or Jason Grant
Lisa Keown

He reminded board members that we may still need to revise our Charter and perhaps Bylaws. He noted that the Charter itself may not be the document we want to revise given it has an historical context that should not be changed. The Bylaws, on the other hand, may be the place to make updates, revisions, and changes that are needed by the council over time. He requested some extra time to rethink the approach to incorporate revisions needed.

Chris - Let the board know we have hired Rachael Davee for a limited-duration, project-specific service agreement to complete South Fork Beaver Effectiveness Monitoring project (project completed in 2009-2010). Project report will be completed and submitted to OWEB no later than March 31, 2018.

Garry - Presented an update on the NRCS Regional Conservation Partners Program (RCPP) application and status. CRWC and its partners have been awarded a grant under this relatively new program at USDA. Garry reviewed the nuts and bolts of the program; not really a grant in the conventional sense, but rather a commitment of Farm Bill funds focused around a specific resource issue, and geography (similar to OWEB FIP program). The CRWC recovers cost under the agreement by delivering products to NRCS at pre-agreed rates. Conservation plans for each landowner in the geography would be an example of a deliverable product that the CRWC would request reimbursement to recover internal costs.

Garry focused on the program budget. Not easy to track as the master budget has multiple categories depending on Farm Bill program, type of funding, and responsible party. Basically there are three main categories funds fall under – NRCS technical assistance (can be used by both CRWC and NRCS to design projects on private lands), financial assistance (directly spent with landowners, not part of CRWC support), and partner technical assistance (supports CRWC work on landowner project deliverable items). Timeline is up to five years, or less. Projects can take longer to complete but landowner enrollments and plans must be done by 2022, for this RCPP agreement.

Design and engineering to support this work is critical and we may need to work with the contracting committee to explore a different approach that still meets the intent of our Procurement Policy. The policy may support this approach for the most part, and may only need a slight exemption to allow for a more creative and open-ended approach. Garry offered several different methods, each with pros and cons. The ideal may be to retain a number of engineering design firms to perform these services for a specified time period. We can utilize parts of the policy, especially the RFQ (request for qualifications) step.

Bob Spateholts mentioned the method they used at Warm Springs, which ended up overpaying engineers for designs that could not be implemented as written once the project hit the ground. Bob noted designs must always have some flex and it may be most important to have the design engineer oversee implementation as things always change from design to implementation project. Meeting NRCS design specifications will be the challenge relative to what we build on the site. Need a rigorous design quality for the lower Crooked River while maintaining some flexibility for the implementation action. Program will ramp up over the spring/summer with landowner enrollments for projects and other activities this fall/winter with work conducted in 2019. CRWC may need to increase staff to support this program in one form or another. Anne

suggested a single program-level LUCS master for all the RCPP work if the land use zone is the same. She invited a preview proposal from staff that would support a preliminary review to ensure her thinking is on solid ground.

Chris - Talked about Opal Springs video production project. He is working with Wahoo Films in Bend for this need. They come highly recommended and are familiar with conservation work in the region. A contract with Wahoo is in the works. It will be broken out by task and year and may be a series of contracts to cover the entire film production. He will begin process of securing speakers to be included. Chris will also be purchasing several time-lapse cameras for the project. Other partners on the project may be co-opting the film production costs and content.

Garry showed a short time-lapse video on the Puyallup River bridge replacement (I-5) to demonstrate how the preferred cameras (Brinno) work and why they are so highly regarded. Long battery charge is another big benefit given Opal access. Chris mentioned these cameras could be used for future projects in a similar way.

5) Member Updates & Discussion

Burchell - There are 8 steelhead at Opal with none being passed; 14 total passed through Round Butte under current run period.

Spateholts - There is a new group that has formed called Citizens in Support of Public Lands (CiSoPL?) with website “All Citizens Public Lands” focused on Central Oregon recreation and wildlife topics. Group has formed in response to Crook County adoption of Natural Resource Plan. Group seeks to increase public input to the Plan and on-going activities on public lands.

J. Breese - Lawson Creek project bounding along. Juniper acres are getting done; some seeding done on the project in support of wildlife objectives. The national Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting is in Reno at the end of the month.

L. Breese - Very dry this winter

Duncan - Keeping permits rolling along to support work on the ground. Supporting landowner project development and preparing for fire season.

Beier – Offered that the dry winter was primarily her fault as she recently purchased a snow blower. County is very busy with increased building permit issuance. Subdivisions are picking up some steam 350 land use permits in 2016, as compared to 460 in 2017. Some days are very busy; last week had 96 inspections in one day. Crook County Natural Resource Plan was not deemed a land use decision so it did not go through the typically long, protracted process with county planning staff, and the public; likely would have ground to a halt if so.

Natasha Bellis (guest- DRC) - Talked about the McKay Creek Water Switch project with much landowner outreach occurring to keep the project on track. Currently working with data to compare crop production with and without Switch, in an effort to assist landowners in their evaluation of costs/benefit. Also looking at design considerations.

Sanders (CRWC staff) - Next month's meeting will be in conflict with Paulina Landowner Workshop; may want to select a new date to avoid overlap. Chris offered a broader solution which would change monthly meetings to every other month. He pointed out several reasons to consider this, primarily because things at the staff level don't change that much from month-to-month thus not big differences in reports and updates at shorter interval.

B. Gray – Updated the group about TNC's Forest Allotment Reserve Pasture assignment process and priority setting. Pasture used to provide local producers a temporary place to graze in the event of their lands being encumbered due to fire, restoration activity, reseeded, or similar. Program eligibility to use the pasture is being recast to provide more opportunities for local use. Committee member reset; very good group.

Beyer – Wine Down Ranch looking at the possibility of annual outdoor music-related events each summer given the success and popularity of last summer's eclipse events. Summer Festival schedule may be coming for future years, perhaps in August to coincide with meteor showers (Perseid). Anne mentioned the need to get permits and applying early highly encouraged. Conservation easement project still moving.

Actions Assigned to Staff or Board:

- 1) Continue transition to QuickBooks for all project level fiscal tracking.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm

**NEXT Meeting – February 15th (re-scheduled), 2018, 5:00pm
COCC Open Campus**