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## Council Meeting Minutes October 12, 2017 -FINAL-

**Board Members Present:** Kasberger, Beyer, John & Lynne Breese, Spateholts, Turo, Smith, Kochersberger, and Beier

**Visitors:** Rachael Davee, Natasha Bellis (DRC), and Becky Burchell (PGE)

**CRWC staff present:** Chris Gannon and Garry Sanders

**Meeting called to order at 5:05pm by Mike Kasberger**

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

**0) Introductions** Introductions were made, including all guests present.

**1) Visitor Comments** No formal comments. Chris reviewed agenda. Discussion about adding a new seat (representation) on the CRWC Board. He proposes adding a regional corporate partner, in this case and if approved, would be initially held by Portland General Electric. Board members discussed pros and cons relative to the proposal. Josh inquired about the need for a second corporate seat. Mike likes and supports a single corporate seat at this time. Jon asked about how the seat will be filled (what criteria?). Broad agreement and general support for the concept was expressed by board with important details needing to be sorted out. If we add a new position, we will need to revise the Charter. This revision will require County Court concurrence. Staff was assigned to review current Charter, identify areas that may need revision, and provide a short list of priorities for updating the document. Discussion focused on opening a second wildlife position to complement fisheries representation resulting in fish-specific and wildlife-specific positions. Perhaps simple invitations and careful scheduling can induce more participation by ODFW Fisheries program as needed by CRWC.

**2) Meeting Minutes** Two sets of meeting minutes were reviewed and approved; August and September. Both were approved by motion – Motion by Lynne Breese, second by Smith; passed unanimously.

**3) Financial Report** Josh summarized the past months fiscal reports. More funds going out this month than coming in, but several requests for funds are in process. Staff moved \$12,000 from the money market savings account temporarily to cover current cash flow needs. These funds

### **CRWC Board:**

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

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

Kevin Keown, or Jon Kochersberger  
Scott Turo  
Lisa Keown

will be returned to the account through time as each projects' reimbursements are received.

#### **4) Staff Updates**

Chris – Discussed changes to our internal fiscal tracking process. As we migrate all our projects to QuickBooks in terms of financial management, we can reduce duplicative filing. Currently we retain a hard copy file for each projects fiscal activities. With OWEB moving towards a fully paperless grant program and with most all our OWEB work now being supported on line, we simply have no advantage or need to continue with duplicative paper files. Chris proposes abandoning the paper files for all new projects while retaining the older project files as they exist today. Chris proposes backing up electronic files as the new need. Board concurred.

Chris – In light of staff changes regarding Greg Sieglitz's departure from CRWC employment, Chris explained his thinking about retaining Greg's services via contract into the future. His last day is October 31. He would like to develop a staffing plan that includes local, less seasoned individuals that could be mentored and developed into future full-time employees. Chris would like to secure a part-time position before the end of the year that could evolve to full time as work load expands. Several good suggestions were offered by board members, mostly around specific needs and priorities. Garry mentioned that the RCPP applications status may impact how we approach staffing needs. Roy mentioned it may be better to get a single full-time position rather than three or four part-time positions; more efficient.

Chris – Offered a short summary about the concept of Crook County acting as CRWC fiscal agent and re-designating the Project Manager position as a County position (conversion) just like the Coordinator position (full reimbursement to County for PM time). He mentioned a setback with position conversion concept derived from County Legal Counsel. It may be worth another attempt in 2018.

Chris – Updated the board on the PSU intern water quality report project. Chris requested PSU participants directly assist in preparing the next OWEB application (2<sup>nd</sup> attempt). When their interest faded as evidenced by no action or response from PSU contingent, Chris decided to defer this proposal until more PSU support is offered.

Chris – Mentioned a project proposal that is being presented to PGE for funding by Trout Unlimited (TU) for a Lytle Creek (lower Crooked) water quality improvement project. His update on this topic included the fact that the TU proposal was not funded by PGE (informational item). He also talked about a new assignment to the Smith Rock State Park advisory committee and invited members to provide any input to that process via his representation.

#### **5) Board Discussion / Open Forum**

Chris reminded the board that we are scheduled to review our monthly health insurance allocation cap for staff with the idea that we need to adjust this figure occasionally to keep up with increased costs and inflation. Chris reviewed the background and current status. He proposes moving the current \$600 to \$850 for 2018, with a revisit or review every two years at minimum. Motion made to accept this new allocation cap by Lynne, second by Kochersberger,

with revisit every two years to be conducted no later than October (timing need for next calendar year).

## **6) Member Updates & Discussion**

Beier – County Planning was the lead for 2017 summer of festivals and Eclipse-related events (mass gathering zoning ordinance). Building permit applications are rising mostly associated with single family residence development augmented by some new activity in Brasadas' next phase. Large solar farm in place off the Millican Highway.

Spatheolts – Fish impacts below Bowman Dam in 2016, as reported by ODFW, seem to have lessened with fish numbers coming back up. Bob mentioned the seasonal habitat condition surveys conducted by ODFW are just about wrapped up.

Burchell – Two steelhead have been passed above the project. While it is still early in the run, the predicted steelhead return numbers for 2017 overall are not good. More fish are expected at the Pelton trap over the run period.

Kochersberger – Very busy summer schedule with project implementation demands. Grant applications are being reviewed for probability of success. It is likely the ONF will not be applying to the Two Chiefs Initiative. Decision has been made on Ochoco Off-Road Vehicle plan. Wild horse management plan update process is underway with a sounding board session coming up in early November. Restoration projects that focused on juniper removal (1200 acres thus far) in upper Willow Creek are looking good with on-the-ground assessments showing dramatic improvements with more water, higher levels, pool formation, and extended wet period overall. Prescribed fire projects have been deferred into next year. McKay Creek project results are starting to show up in flows and water storage in the new deeper profiles established.

J. Breese – Talked about recent Society for Range Management meetings in Veron, B.C. The Canadian government is stressing the value of a natural resource economy thus meaning many uses can be occurring in the same area or same acre even. Managing water resources has become increasingly challenging. Fish resources are also a focal point with access to lakes being considered. Mixing genetics and potential diseases are concerns. Lawson Creek project progressing nicely. Contractor has removed many acres of juniper. A lone mountain goat has moved into the drainage and can be seen occasionally. Good sign.

L. Keown - Talked about the makeup of current classes as school gets into full swing. Lisa has a smaller number of students in classes (10-15), however all of them seem more focused on natural resources than in the past. Good start to the school year. Lisa noted that her intern can also assist with local education activities to help her earn community service credits.

Breeses - John recently appointed Oregon Access & Habitat Board (ODFW) for a two-year term. The benefits to landowners from the program center on water developments, juniper thinning, and removing abandoned fencing wire. Hunting access and habitat improvements are key tenets of the program.

Rachael Davee (Guest) - Talked about her school research project in Bridge Creek area to reintroduce and reestablish beaver. Rachael has moved to the area permanently and had served on the Mary's River watershed council board while at school. She expressed interest in local opportunities for employment and is willing to volunteer some hours. Ideally, Racheal would like to remain in Prineville area if employment can be secured.

Smith – Reported that building permits in the City have slowed a bit, perhaps due in part to seasonal weather and hunting season. Big projects are still moving to completion. Tomorrow is an open house for the public at Barnes Butte site at 10a.m. (Iron Horse).

Turo – Tribe is in the midst of renegotiating Bonneville Power Administration mitigation fund levels. Scott mentioned a local desire to allow some BPA funds to be expended above Pelton-Round Butte in support of reintroduction efforts. High level discussions are ongoing with very little settled at this time. Status quo funding would be the minimum objective. Perhaps future projects in the Crooked could integrate tribal input, objectives, and goals leading to a co-implimenting partnership. New contracts with BPA into the future may look different compared to past. Some areas will be reduced, such as some monitoring activities.

Natasha Bellis (Guest - DRC) – Just returned from Brisbane, Australia after attending and presenting at an international water symposium on water conservation and water rights. Water Switch is the next big project focus. Locally, there is an emerging concern for a potential regional imbalance in water mitigation credit use and water conservation programs.

Beyer – Out on the ranch bringing in cattle although recent bad weather has compelled most of them to come in on their own. Still working on conservation easement with DLT in Bend. Asked about habitat inventory work in McKay this past summer. Spateholts provided an overview of the data collected and how is it used in models to predict fish production potential over time. These surveys are repeated for the same area on an about five-year interval.

Kasberger – More and more school tours are coming to the wetland project. Seems like every week another group or two are scheduled or will be over the school year.

**Actions Assigned to Staff or Board:**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm**

**NEXT Meeting – November 9th, 2017, 5:00pm  
COCC Open Campus**