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## Council Meeting Minutes September 13, 2018 -FINAL-

**Board Members Present:** Youtie, Kasberger, Beyer, John & Lynne Breese, Spateholts, Burchell, and Lisa Keown

**Visitors:** Ann Leschen, landowner in the watershed  
Natasha Bellis, Deschutes River Conservancy

**CRWC staff present:** Chris Gannon

### Meeting called to order at 5:07pm by Mike Kasberger

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

**0) Introductions** Formal introductions were made to ensure all participants for the evening had the opportunity to meet.

**1) Visitor Comments** No visitor presentations or address to the board.

**2) Meeting Minutes** August board meeting minutes were reviewed and passed unanimously (motion to approve by Spateholts, second by L. Breese).

**3) Financial Report** Chris summarized the monthly profit and loss statements, detailed level, for August. Chris reported that overall the financial status of the council is healthy, perhaps as healthy as any time before. We have placed approximately \$25,000 in future fund commitments into the money market reserve account. These funds are held for specific projects or purposes that we will have to fund when they are implemented or completed. Examples include project monitoring. Chris mentioned several large invoices that were paid in the period for Opal Springs, Crook County High School CTE program, and Lawson Creek. Chris talked about Stearns project savings and how those funds are being used to support CRWC UAV and a new fish tag reader to be located at OID main canal diversion yard. Report approved by board motion (motion by Beyer, second by J. Breese; passed unanimously).

**4) Staff Updates** Chris announced the search for a second project manager has concluded with the employment offer to and acceptance by Mark Peterson. Chris passed around his resume just so board members could share the most basic data on Mark's background and experience. He will start officially on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Chris provided a brief summary of Mark's background including a short summary of his military service ratings and awards. We are starting him at salary that will be automatically adjusted upward at successful six-month probation milestone to \$42,000 per year. Benefits will be included as per our policy. Lynne mentioned that when they met Mark in La Grande, he was very easy to work with, approachable, and has a personality that will fit our landowners well. Chris mentioned the only other candidate considered, and it was very close, may not be as committed to the long term and perhaps would use the council position to launch into another Oregon job once in Oregon (pure speculation). Some discussion about rejection letters and responses that were shared with the board via email occurred and board members mentioned that they were pleased with the process and how our contacts with applicants were handled. Several other applicants were good, but all were either less experienced, or did not possess the mix of skills and experience desired by the CRWC.

### 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

Chris generally described how Mark's work plan will be developed and how it relates to reducing some parts of Garry's workload. He will go through an orientation period of about three months getting exposure to partners, agencies, issues, and future work.

Two Chiefs application is being updated and resubmitted as we did not get the grant awarded on first application. Chris shared two maps of the current application focus area. The application is due October 12, and like last time, will be led by Kevin Keown. We should know the results of this effort in a few months, probably around Christmas or early next year. Funds will be targeted to vegetation management in the upper Crooked River area near Post and eastward, but not all the way to Paulina. To the south, the target area includes the Maurys. Juniper removal, Rx burning, forest stand thinning, and other activities on the list are intended to cross land boundaries under this proposal; thus private and public lands get the same treatments where applicable without land ownership limiting acres covered; all lands approach. Kevin Keown and Chris Mundy, from NRCS will be the two key project managers if the grant is awarded.

Chris listed several OWEB Focused Investment Program that are in development – two monitoring, one restoration for fish passage at Prineville Country Club on Ochoco Creek, and one landowner engagement proposal are all going in to OWEB before September 28<sup>th</sup>. Chris summarized each application and highlighted the key activities in each. He tied this FIP-based work to NRCS RCPP given they have many overlaps and complementary elements. Landowner sign-ups will be occurring over the winter to support NRCS farm bill practices identified in the RCPP work plan.

#### **5) Member Updates & Discussion**

Bob - Fishing is good on Vancouver Island at the moments. Bob will be traveling to Yellowstone next. He did point out that the US Forest Service ORV plan for the Ochocos has been appealed and has been returned to the agency for reconsideration. Wolf movement across large swaths of Central Oregon may have also been a factor given the access and trails disrupt travel.

Lisa K. - Summer was busy. Lisa attended a camp for teachers and students at the new Cottonwood Canyon State Park on the John Day; intensive program with students from various levels attending and participating for one week. Good interactions and much common bonding. Photographs were collected and Lisa will send them around when available.

Becky - Delivered a donation check from PGE to the Council in support of Opal Springs video production. Funds come from Corporate Social Responsibility program at Portland General Electric. Chris will write and send a thank you letter to Gregg Arnston who heads up the program. Steelhead are now just starting to appear at Opal. During construction, fish captured at Pelton Trap that are determined to be Crooked River origin fish, will be trucked above Opal and released directly into the River; avoids Opal reach. Electro-fishing is scheduled for this fall in selected reaches.

Berta - Seeding sites in Crook County have been surveyed for need, species mix, and timing. Several good projects seem to be ready for seed application. Berta has sold her house in Prineville and has purchased a new residence in Bend. New owner will take possession on November 1, this year.

Roy – Meeting with Libby Monday to review potential follow ups to small grant work started last year. New work may be a continuation or it may be moved towards Big Table. Juniper treatment and RX burning are the main actions considered. Roy is still working through the appraisal phase on the conservation easement.

Mike - Working on City infrastructure at the moment and the airport service line extension going up the hill. Complicated project to get gravity fed system (deep trenching to meet pipe slope requirements).

**Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm**

***Actions Assigned to Staff or Board: None***

***NEXT Meeting – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 5:00pm, COCC Open Campus***