



Jesse Steele - Accountability Report

April - May 2020

Reporting Guidelines (questions to consider as you prepare your report)

Describe what you did, when and how you are supporting your partners? What was the end product? How did you share the product with local and external basin partners? How would those partners describe the value and their satisfaction of the services provided? Please list specific examples as outlined below.

The Executive Director supervises and directs all activities of the GRMWP staff including accomplishment of all of the work elements delegated to various staff. The Director accomplishes Work Element "Regional Coordination" which includes coordination, committee participation, task force participation, recovery planning and other participation. Agencies, groups and processes the Director is involved in include the OWEB Rules Advisory Committee, OWEB Outreach Program Committee, Title II Resource Advisory Committee, the Oregon Governor's office, regulatory agencies, NPCC and NPCC staff.

Narrative Summary: (Describe how GRMW as an organization is meeting its contractual milestones & deliverables including watershed coordination, Atlas development, project review & selection, etc in collaboration with Basin Partners and BPA)

GRMW has been able to continue effective coordination among the partners during the Stay at Home orders. We have utilized GoToMeetings extensively and even purchased a second license so that we can host multiple meetings at the same time. We facilitated another Headwaters Initiative (HWI) meeting this period. We reviewed the HWI agreement and future project list with the USFS and their new Aquatics Program Manager, Cecil Rich. We continue to conduct monthly coordination meetings with our BPA COR and Area Lead to discuss projects and budgets. GRMW has been able to conduct all our Board meetings remotely, including the June meeting where the Board reviewed and approved 7 proposals for funding. Both Union County and Wallowa County IT meetings have been held remotely for several months now. This has allowed coordination and project planning to continue among the partnership. We have several guest speakers lined up for the fall IT meetings, including Phil Roni (AEM results and future), Kai Ross (HSI Tool) and Nick Legg (Sediment Analysis in the UGR). We have mostly paused Atlas development in Wallowa County and Atlas updates in Union County. We feel it is more effective to have those working meetings in-person and will resume once we can safely meet again. GRMW held an additional proposal solicitation in June. Several projects were delayed this winter and spring due to various reasons (Sec. 106, design changes, etc.), so this funding opportunity was utilized to try and get some of those projects into the Stepwise process during this fiscal year. Seven proposals were submitted on June 1 and all seven were recommended for funding by the IT. We continue to work collaboratively with BPA and partners to address some knowledge gaps that will help inform future restoration efforts. These activities include a sediment analysis in the UGR, the development of an Habitat Suitability Index Tool, LiDAR acquisition, Water quality assessment, HEC-RAS modeling, and software upgrades. These efforts will inform project designs and Atlas restoration priority areas.

Challenges/Risks: (Identify any major challenges/risks, how you are addressing them and if you need BPA assistance)

We anticipate budget reductions at OWEB will begin to start effecting GRMW in 2021. It is likely that we will not be able to secure the typically funding from OWEB to operate the gauging stations in the Grande Ronde Basin. Additionally, the FIP will be ending in June 2021, so that cost share will no longer be available. It is unlikely OWEB will have another application period for FIPs in 2021. Two positions are funded approximately half time at GRMW by OWEB. There is potential that if revenues don't increase soon for OWEB that it could start to affect GRMW's administration budget.

Lessons Learned: (Describe organizational successes and/or opportunities for improving GRMW performance including support of your partners)

As we get close to ending Fiscal Year 2020, I feel that we had a very successful year. The coordination with BPA has been the best I can remember it and I believe it shows in the amount of restoration and assessment that we were able to complete and contract. The monthly coordination meetings continue to provide a lot of benefit for both GRMW and BPA.

List Monthly Training & Travel:

N/A



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Staff