



Klamath Water Users Association

KWUA 2008 Annual Report

October, 2008

KWUA Mission Statement

To preserve, protect and defend the water and power rights of the landowners of the Klamath Basin, while promoting wise management of ecosystem resources.

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2008 Review of Association Activity

In 2007-08, the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) remained focused on our overall mission. The staff, as directed by the KWUA Board of Directors has sewn many seeds we expect to bear fruit in the near future. In addition, continual work has gone into maintaining adequate and uninterrupted water supplies for Project irrigators.

Over the past year we have devoted a tremendous amount of time and resources to the completion and implementation of the proposed Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA). While all of us struggle with some of the measures contemplated by the agreement, we, as an organization, remain confident that if funded and implemented, it will achieve meaningful results and predictability that all irrigation districts and their patrons will benefit from. Further, we advance this position as a solution for all Upper Basin communities not one over another. We look forward to 2009 believing it will again be a year full of significant challenges as well as new opportunities for irrigated agriculture in the Klamath Basin.

In this report, we will provide a look back at the activities the Association has been involved with, how the KBRA would address a variety of issues, and what our parallel strategies are should the KBRA not be fully achieved. In addition, we will provide a brief outlook for the upcoming year. As always, if you have questions or concerns about issues in this report or otherwise please let your KWUA Board representative know, or feel free to contact Greg Addington at the KWUA office.

Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA)

Three years ago when KWUA engaged in talks with other concerned parties sharing an interest in the future of the Klamath Watershed as well as a shared vision of sustainable rural communities, we began a journey that has formed many valuable and unprecedented relationships. At its core, this group of unlikely allies shared a common vision of sustaining and improving what is important to each of us. This effort has been about finding solutions not only for KWUA members, but also other communities in the watershed. The proposed KBRA has emerged to be a comprehensive agreement that seeks to ensure that the diverse needs of many of the stakeholders throughout the watershed are met in a reasonable manner and greatly reduces the likelihood of costly litigation and political attacks that have been commonplace over the past decade or more. In formulating this agreement, KWUA maintained a clear and determined focus as directed by our board and member districts. The three-pronged approach of a predictable water supply for irrigators, affordable power, and regulatory protection from any introduction or re-introduction of species has been, and remains, our objective, and is captured in the terms of the proposed KBRA.

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Water Supply



Figure 1 - Gerber Dam

Project irrigators have learned that a once-stable water supply can be disrupted by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We also know that there are uncertainties associated with the state water rights adjudication, particularly with regard to tribal water right claims. In addition, one cannot look at the issue of water supply without also looking at the state and national political landscape. In an uncertain political climate with respect to water and environmental issues as a whole, KWUA's board has had the foresight to recognize this challenge and position the Association soundly in order to handle whatever may come our way.

The KBRA has terms designed to assure reliable water for the Klamath Project. The bottom line is that we hope to fundamentally change the order of being served. We intend to go from last on the list to first. There would ultimately be a limit on the amount of water that can be diverted from Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River, but the water would be more secure and predictable than in the recent past. This "allocation" would be based on the March 1, NRCS water year forecast. The total diversion from the lake and river would range from 378 thousand acre feet (TAF) in the driest years to 445 TAF in wet years. These figures are the total for irrigation and refuges; there would also be a commitment to deliver 48 to 60 TAF to Lower Klamath Refuge uses. While approximately 50% of the years statistically will result in a shortage for irrigation, the KBRA specifies tools and funding so we can manage those shortages successfully to avoid any involuntary water shortfall. Critically dry years will be a challenge, as they are today and more work remains to be done on that front. Implementation of the KBRA would result in settling water rights disputes with tribes, who would agree not to come back to the Project for more. However, this does not mean that the Project is "guaranteed" water every year. Despite efforts to the contrary by KWUA, we did not, either in this agreement or in Congress, change or repeal the ESA. But the KBRA provides support of the other parties to provide long-term (50+ year) protection to the extent allowed under law, and the mechanisms to do so. We believe that if properly implemented as specified, the KBRA will provide security and stability to the Basin's farm and ranch families while promoting and realizing restoration benefits.

This arrangement will not be considered perfect by many, but we do know that it is the best and most politically viable alternative that has been presented. And we certainly know the pitfalls of staying with the status quo.

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Should components of the KBRA related to this piece not materialize, KWUA will (and is) continuing work to improve the water supply situation for Basin irrigators. We remain engaged with stakeholders as to our needs and continue to work with federal and state agencies to restore a common sense, watershed wide approach to implementation of the ESA. One piece of evidence of this is the issuance of the first ever “non-jeopardy” opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) related to endangered suckers.

Adjudication

KWUA itself is not directly involved in the Klamath Basin Adjudication, although virtually all of its members are. While critically important, the Adjudication is long and costly, and there are uncertainties regarding some of the outcomes. The water rights claims of the Klamath Tribes include claims for Upper Klamath Lake elevations much higher than historical operations and for flows in the Klamath River to the Oregon border that would often be difficult to meet. These claims are just now going through the administrative litigation phase of the Adjudication. The KBRA provides a permanent settlement regarding these claims; Project irrigators would not contest the claims, and the Tribes would not be able to assert water rights to demand more water from the Project than the agreed limitations under the KBRA. We hope for timely developments related to this component of the proposed KBRA. The KBRA would also result in settlements with other settling tribes, who would also not have the ability to assert demands that the Project reduce diversions beyond the agreed limitations.

Power

The KBRA sets a goal of achieving a power rate (delivered) of 3 cents per Kilowatt hour. Though some details of how this would be achieved have evolved over the past year, the goal remains the same. We believe that using a combination of federal power allocation along with a fund to invest in and build renewable energy generation will accomplish this objective. As has been the case from day one, this target as worked on



Figure 2 - A Canal Fish Screen

and developed by KWUA and others, is meant to benefit all Upper Basin producers who previously received benefit from the 1956 power contracts with PacifiCorp’s predecessor, Copco.

As most of you know, a new local agency called Klamath Water and Power Agency (KWAPA) has been formed. KWAPA, which has the powers of a People’s Utility District, has long been talked about as a necessity for

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the irrigators of the Klamath Basin, so much so that the idea of its formation was included early on in the development of the KBRA. While KWAPA can and will function whether or not the KBRA is implemented and will operate as a separate entity from KWUA, it will have some cooperative functions and duties that will be carried out if the KBRA is implemented. Again, regardless of the outcome of the KBRA, we believe KWAPA will play a critical role in the future needs of Basin irrigators. We are pleased to report that in August of 2008 KWAPA was officially formed and held public meetings to elect board members, adopt bylaws, and plan for the future. KWAPA is currently contemplating participating in a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to study water use and mitigation. The program, called Water User Mitigation Plan (WUMP) would allow KWAPA to enter into contracts with individuals and entities to idle land or substitute groundwater under specific circumstances. In addition to some water and water management related projects, KWAPA will be in the forefront for administering feasibility studies and evaluations of renewable energy development projects that can benefit the districts and their patrons.

KWAPA's bylaws allow for the participation of all Klamath Project irrigation districts. For more information, districts should contact Ed Bair or Bill Ganong.

Regulatory Assurances – “Safe Harbor”

Other parties in the KBRA negotiation are, of course, interested in increasing fish habitat and the range of various fish species. From the outset, as KWUA was asked to support measures that would introduce or reintroduce species in the Upper Klamath Basin which are not now present, we emphasized that Upper Basin irrigators would require protection from any new regulatory burdens that might come with the fish.

There are various terms addressing this subject in the KBRA. Among the most important are provisions under which all the parties agree to seek non-reimbursable funding for construction of fish screens on Project diversions. Whether or when these types of screening obligations might arise in the absence of the KBRA is not certain, but under the agreement we would pursue a controlled process utilizing this funding. Ultimately, any necessary regulatory protections under the ESA for new species would be rolled into the same regulatory package that relates to water assurances.



Figure 3 - Keno Reservoir

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Future Storage

The KBRA supports the concept of additional off-stream storage projects generally, which could include Long Lake and in fact advocates that the BOR complete the necessary feasibility studies on these projects. Additionally and regardless of the KBRA outcome, KWUA remains a strong and committed advocate for securing additional water storage to meet the variety of water demands that have presented themselves throughout the watershed.

Project Debt

All of the Project contractors have fulfilled their contractual obligations to repay a portion of the construction costs of the Project. Yet, as you know, for a number of years there has been a question as to potential additional “debt” of the Project: what it is, how much it is, and how it is supposed to be paid. In any circumstances, we believe there is no legal obligation of the water users to make new payments for “construction” or major capital costs. But at the present, time, lease land revenues that we have understood would be used for certain Project purposes benefiting the water users are not available for that purpose. This issue is very complicated from both a legal and accounting perspective and has received much attention by BOR over recent years.



Figure 4 - Keno Dam

The KBRA would clear up this messy situation by providing an agreement that historically accumulated net lease revenues would be declared equal to the “debt,” whatever it is, and erase that debt. The KBRA also provides support for legislation that future net lease revenues, after satisfying other current legal obligations, would be applied to future capital costs of the Project. A portion of net lease revenues (20 percent) would also be available for Wildlife Refuge purposes.

Overall Status of KBRA

The proposed KBRA was released on January 15, 2008. There was tremendous effort to complete the proposed agreement early enough that legislation could be introduced and enacted this year in order to authorize the agreement and authorize funding. However, as you know, the KBRA contemplates that there is also an agreement with

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PacifiCorp related to PacifiCorp's dams, and both agreements would be entered into simultaneously. It has unfortunately taken considerably longer than was projected for the negotiating parties to reach an agreement with PacifiCorp. There may be an "agreement in principle" soon, but this is uncertain.

As a consequence, circumstances are uncertain overall. With the pending change in the federal administration, there will be a new cast of characters, whoever may prevail in the election. It will take time to fill relevant positions and time for them to get up to speed. We are currently focusing on efforts to create as much forward momentum as possible in order to realize implementation based on the negotiated terms as soon as that can occur. It also remains possible that there will be significant progress on both agreements in the next few months. There is no playbook to follow. We are working with other KBRA parties and the state and federal representatives on these issues.

Other Water Supply and ESA Related Issues

Re-consultation

KWUA has been consistent over the last several years in pushing for federal agencies to re-consult on their current (2002) Biological Opinions (BO). In the Spring/Summer of 2007, BOR began the process of re-consultation. BOR prepared a Biological Assessment for use by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in developing new, updated Biological Opinions for the operation of the Klamath Reclamation Project.

In the spring of 2008, and on time, the USFWS issued the first "non-jeopardy" opinion for operations of the Klamath Project. In developing this BO, USFWS used information gathered over the past several years including restoration activities and ongoing projects. While the finding of non-jeopardy is historic and significant, it does not mean that regulation regarding Project operations go away. It does however provide added flexibility in lake levels and allow for more real-time management of the system. This is a significant step in the right direction from our standpoint.

That said, NMFS did not fulfill its statutory responsibility to provide a BO in a timely fashion. As of the end of September, NMFS has released a draft "jeopardy" BO that is incomplete in that it contains no Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives and no incidental take coverage for reclamation. A final BO has yet to be issued. KWUA has met with the agencies and other stakeholders, including tribes, to discuss our concerns about the timing and the quality of the opinion.

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Salmon Reintroduction

The potential for introduction or re-introduction of salmon to the Upper Basin has been in the cards for more than 4 years. Agencies and others have conducted studies and have positioned themselves in the relicensing of the PacifiCorp dams to promote fish passage one way or another. While the KBRA supports the effort of reintroduction of salmon, it also provides for protection of landowners upstream of Iron Gate Dam for any adverse impacts of such an effort. In the absence of the KBRA, KWUA has significant concerns regarding the impacts to landowners and districts. We also have expressed our displeasure with the evaluations and economic analysis conducted by the State of Oregon as they move forward with plans for re-introduction. In June of 2008, KWUA was the only body to submit comments asking for a delay in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission's decision regarding altering the Klamath Basin fisheries plan.

Water Quality



Figure 5 – Westside ID

In Late July, KWUA met with state and federal regulatory agencies regarding the draft Klamath River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). KWUA has sought to take a proactive approach in addressing water quality concerns for interests within the Basin; however, we believe that the water quality standards must be reasonable and attainable. In addition, actions to comply must be affirmatively acknowledged by the agencies and some protections given as a result. Currently there have not been solid suggestions for remedying the (naturally occurring) water quality deficiencies of either the Lost River or the Klamath River. These two water bodies are the primary focus of the current effort in both states and by EPA. Pending the final draft of the TMDL study, KWUA may engage in taking steps towards implementation, which could include seeking funding to address water quality issues as they pertain to the Klamath Project.

Included in the presentation of draft TMDL approaches from the agencies, was an outline of the TMDL Implementation Strategy, and TMDL Implementation Plan Elements, as follows:

- DEQ will implement TMDL in accordance with Oregon administrative rule OAR 340-042
- Recommendations to guide activities to improve water quality;
 - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between responsible implementation entities.
 - Actions to reduce nutrient loads
 - Monitoring to document changes and to track progress

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- Adaptive management approach
- Potential funding sources
- Management strategies that Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) will use to reduce pollutants.
- A timeline for implementing strategies and a schedule for completing measurable milestones.
- Performance monitoring with provisions for periodic review and revision of the implementation plan.
- Evidence of compliance with statewide land use requirements.
- Any other analyses or information as required in the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)

It is important to note that the Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) mentioned in this outline, refers to the irrigation and drainage districts of the Klamath Project. According to the state, the DMAs would work in cooperation with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) to implement the WQMP. There is much debate as to the legality and/or willingness of districts being appointed as DMAs. KWUA intends to advocate strongly on behalf of our member districts as to the need for an overall reasonable approach including the appropriateness of districts being responsible for water quality issues that are likely outside of their control.



Figure 6 - Directions

These issues notwithstanding, KWUA has begun to look into various funding options that might be available for plan development, education, implementation, monitoring, or other programs that could be helpful to the districts. Such grants should encourage efforts to improve water quality by promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution through both permitted and non-permitted areas.

Should the DMAs be required to create a WQMP independently, or find that the government-issued WQMP is beyond reasonable compliance and/or attainability, funding might be used to hire an outside consultant specializing in TMDL and water quality studies to assist us in creating a WQMP to achieve a goal of reasonable compliance with the issued TMDL implementation goals.

KWUA has met with the BOR and Klamath County Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss these TMDLs and their possible future impacts. BOR has indicated that they do not believe the proposed TMDLs take into consideration the baseline phosphorus

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levels occurring in the Upper Klamath Basin that add to heightened levels in Klamath River and Lost River. BOR is working to present this information to the appropriate regulatory agencies for consideration in the TMDLs.

Outreach and Personnel

Over the past few years, the KWUA Board of Directors has recognized that the scope and magnitude of issues that we deal with on a daily basis have increased enough to warrant hiring additional staff to assist in day-to-day duties. In April, KWUA listed a job opening and received an overwhelming response. After several interviews, we were pleased to announce the hiring of Belinda Stewart to fill the position. Belinda comes to us with an agricultural background and many unique skills that will serve the Association well. Belinda's title is Outreach and Program Coordinator. She has been with us since the beginning of July and has lived in the Klamath Basin for three years. An Oregon State University graduate, Belinda has a degree in Agriculture and Resource Economics and shares a true passion for the industry. Many of you have already met Belinda, but to summarize her duties at KWUA, she will be focusing on internal and external outreach and will work on specific programs and issues. She has already begun working on a new KWUA website, drafting a quarterly newsletter, and helping to coordinate a fall harvest tour.



Figure 7 - Wheat Harvest

Mariann Gill is well into her 4th year of service with the Association. Mari continues to be the initial point of contact for KWUA. In addition, her duties include the day-to-day bookkeeping, preparation of taxes and financial documents, record keeping and filing, as well as keeping minutes of board meetings and overall office management.

Political Outreach

In 2008 KWUA sent representatives to Washington D.C. on two separate occasions. The first was in February along with representatives of other KBRA parties to discuss the proposed agreement with members of Congress and the executive branch.

Later in the spring, KWUA made a second trip to Washington D.C. to brief agencies and congressional offices on current events and to advocate our position on a variety of issues. Follow up with most of these offices has been ongoing throughout the last year.

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KWUA is also working on outreach efforts to the campaign and advisory staff for both Presidential candidates.

State Political Outreach



**Figure 8 - OR State Senator
Jason Atkinson on a Klamath
Tour**

KWUA, in one form or another, has made numerous trips to both state capitols over the past year. Meetings have occurred in both Salem and Sacramento with elected officials as well as the respective agencies and political appointees from the areas of Water Resources, Environmental Quality, Agriculture and Energy. KWUA has also developed good working relationships with staff from both states' Governors' offices.

Media and Public Relations

The first quarter of 2008 was an intense time with respect to KWUA and media activity. Many publications, including the Herald and News, spent considerable time and effort in reporting the release of the draft KBRA.

KWUA was a focal point of much of the local news coverage and we participated heavily in the Herald and News's special four-part series, "Watermarks", which focused on the KBRA. The local newspaper went on to win the 2008 Dolly Connelly Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism for "Watermarks," from the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association for their in-depth work on this subject.

Guest Editorials and Other

Water users in the Klamath Basin drafted and signed a letter of support for the KBRA in October and submitted it as a guest editorial in the Herald and News. With over 50 signatures, this letter speaks well of the community support for KWUA and the need for the KBRA.

Ed Bair, Chairman of KWAPA, also had an editorial published in the Herald and News in September, talking about the purpose of KWAPA and hopes for the future of KWAPA either independently or cooperatively related to the KBRA.

Other editorials have been published throughout the year both in support and opposition of the KBRA. Several Project irrigators will be featured in an upcoming article

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in 'National Geographic Magazine' that focuses on the Klamath River. The article is scheduled to come out this winter.

Klamath Reclamation Project Tours

Klamath Project tours have become a staple of our outreach efforts to a variety of interests. Tours have been conducted throughout the year on a more personal basis. We have taken congressional aides out, as well as community members and groups with an interest in the Klamath Reclamation Project. We anticipate many more tours like this in the coming year.

- Tours conducted over the past year
 - Congressional staff and aides
 - Fishermen and Tribes (continued involvement with Farmer/Fisherman coalition)
 - Conservation and Environmental organizations
 - Northcoast Environmental Center
 - Friends of the River
 - American Rivers
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Media
 - Iowa Public TV
 - National Geographic
 - High Country News
 - California Farm Bureau

Figure 9 - Bob Flowers explains Lower Klamath Hydrology



Figure 10 - 2008 Potato Harvest

First Annual KWUA Harvest Tour

In October, KWUA plans to hold its first annual Fall Harvest Tour to showcase local agriculture at this beautiful time of the year. We will tour north on Highway 97, south through the Klamath Drainage District to the Tulelake refuge area, and back north to Poe Valley. We anticipate having about 40 members of the community along on the tour to view firsthand an industry that accounts for nearly \$500 million dollars of the regional economy.

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We hope to make this an annual event and focus on different areas of the Project with each tour.

New Website Debuts

KWUA will debut its new website in November. Our new Outreach and Program Coordinator, Belinda Stewart, has been working closely with web designers from *Wrinkledog, Inc.* to finalize content before launching the site. We hope you will find the new website to be informative and user friendly.

KWUA Quarterly Newsletter to Launch in January 09

In an effort to keep our local water users and member districts informed about current issues and the work KWUA does on their behalf, we will be launching a quarterly newsletter beginning January 2009. The newsletter will be available by email in PDF form, or hardcopy. If you would like to receive the newsletter please contact the KWUA office either by phone (541-883-6100) or by email (mari@kwua.org) and let us know to put you on the mailing list! Please specify if you would like the email or hardcopy format.

KWUA Board Policy and Priorities

- Availability of Water Supply to Project Irrigators
- Support of KBRA and work towards its implementation
- Maintain a clear focus on water and power rights of irrigators
- Work collaboratively with other stakeholders to find meaningful solutions
- Prepare for transition to a new Presidential Administration
- Prepare for transition of costs related to power as KWAPA takes on more responsibilities
- Advocate for the interests of our member districts with regard to water quality issues

KWUA Fiscal Strategy

KWUA expects to come in under the board approved budget for the calendar year 2008 and hold assessments level for the third consecutive year.

Since 2006, when assessments were at an all time high due to our involvement in multiple legal venues, mostly related to the Public Utility Commissions and FERC, KWUA, under the leadership of its Board of Directors, has found ways to maintain or even

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increase the issues addressed and the services it provides without increasing the assessment to Project acres.

KWUA's Directors are continually mindful of their fiduciary responsibility to the districts that they represent. From a financial aspect, KWUA appears ready for somewhat of a transition. The fiscal strategy that is being developed is one where we, as an organization, generally see a need to increase and diversify our funding opportunities. We are continually interested in exploring more proactive partnerships with other entities and businesses in the community. In addition, the pursuit of grants and other awards remain under consideration. The ultimate goal is to increase our effectiveness while minimizing the fiscal impact to Project irrigators.

Another issue related to this is the formation of KWAPA. It is unclear at this time how the formation of this group may affect (reduce) the amount of resources that KWUA currently spends on power related issues.

Grant Opportunities

KWUA is now better prepared to pursue opportunities for funding that would require specific actions or outcomes. For example, funds may be available for water quality work, water quality/quantity education and outreach, renewable energy evaluation and implementation, etc. However, as is the case with many of the funding sources, we have to consider the expectations and the "strings" that may be attached to such funding.

Business /Organization Membership

The topic of KWUA membership by businesses and other organizations has been discussed substantially over the past several years. There is clearly interest from the KWUA board in pursuing this idea; however, the details of such a proposal are more involved than what it might appear. Issues surrounding amounts of contributions and board representation and involvement remain unresolved.

Over a year ago, KWUA created an ad hoc committee to wrestle with this issue. Due to a variety of issues and time constraints, little progress has been made. The KWUA board hopes to revisit this issue early in 2009.

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2008 Officers and Directors

Position 1. - (Tulelake Irrigation District):

Earl Danosky
Bill Heiney (Alternate)

Position 2. - (Klamath Irrigation District, Warren Act and Group E):

Dave Solem
Jason Chapman (Alternate)

Position 3. - (Klamath Drainage District, Midland Imp. Dist & Klamath Hills):

Luther Horsley (**Board President**)
Tim O'Conner (Alternate)

Position 4. - "At-Large" (Seat held for -Langell Valley and Horsefly Irrigation Districts):

Gary Wright (**Board Vice-President**)
Mike Byrne (Alternate)

Position 5. - (Shasta View and Malin Irrigation Districts):

Rob Unruh
Luke Robison (Alternate)

Position 6. - (Enterprise Irrigation District, Pine Grove, and Poe Valley Irrigation Districts):

L.D. Sorensen
Ken Rykbost (Alternate)

Position 7. - (Van Brimmer Irrigation District, The P Canal, West Side I.D. #4, and Sunnyside I.D.):

Steve Kandra (**KWUA Past President**)
Rob Crawford (Alternate)

Position 8. - (Ady, Plevna, Pioneer, and Keno Districts):

Bob Flowers
Jason Flowers (Alternate)

Position 9. - (Klamath Basin Improvement District):

Bill Kennedy
Ed Bair (Alternate)

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Position 10. - (Upper Klamath Lake and Klamath River Contractors):

Karl Scronce

Mark Campbell (Alternate)

Position 11. - (At Large, position may be from or represent any area within the Klamath Project as established in Article II of the KWUA Bylaws.):

Bob Gasser

Scott Seus (Alternate)

Staff:

Greg Addington, Executive Director (**Sec/Treasurer-non voting**) – greg@kwua.org

Belinda Stewart, Outreach and Program Coordinator – belinda@kwua.org

Mariann Gill, Administrative Assistant – mari@kwua.org

2008 Committees and Chairs:

Administration/Executive –	Luther Horsley (Chair), Gary Wright, Steve Kandra
Budget –	Gary Wright (Chair), Luther Horsley, Steve Kandra
Legal –	Bill Kennedy (Chair), Dave Solem, Luther Horsley
Political Oversight –	Mike Byrne (Chair), Bob Gasser, Scott Seus
Public Relations –	Bob Gasser (Chair), Rob Crawford, Dan Keppen
Power –	Scott Seus (Chair), Mike Byrne, Steve Kandra
Science –	Dave Solem (Chair), Ken Rykbost, Jason Chapman, Glen Barrett
Water Bank –	Gary Wright (Chair), Ed Bair, Rob Unruh

2009 Outlook



Figure 11 - Klamath River

Entering 2009, we face uncertainty. The schedule for finalizing and implementing the KBRA is up in the air at this point. Should an agreement be reached with PacifiCorp and the governments of Oregon, California and the United States, legislation could be introduced in 2009.

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We know that we currently have a new BO for Upper Klamath Lake but the outcome of the consultation with NMFS for flow requirements in the river remains unknown. What happens there could affect many other processes.

We know that the state of Oregon will continue with the water rights adjudication process, pressing forward on a schedule that will end with an Order of Determination in June of 2011.

We know that January of 2009 will usher in a new President and that much of the rest of the year we will see a changing of the guard with respect to federal agency political appointees. We have a pretty good idea that the 2009 Congress will be controlled once again by the Democratic Party.

What we also know is that as an organization we have positioned ourselves to work with both political parties and a diverse group of stakeholders. We have been proactive in efforts to collaborate and solve complex problems. We are looked to as a leader in the industry, as trustworthy and of the utmost integrity.

The path ahead will no doubt be bumpy, but KWUA will be up to whatever challenges come our way. Your Board of Directors is actively engaged in the issues and works hard to represent each of you. From a staff perspective, I can tell that we take great pride in representing our member districts and the family farmers and ranchers who call this place home. We hope you also take satisfaction and some comfort in being associated with this organization.

Regards,

Greg Addington
Executive Director