Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council  
February 19, 2007  
Meeting Minutes

Present:
Staff: Troy Baker, Jacqueline Boatman, Bob Bower, Derek Gloyn, Brian Wolcott
Guests: Jon Brough, John Wells, Teresa Yeager

Meeting started at: 7:03 pm

Review Minutes
There were a few important motions made last meeting and the council requested a few days to review the minutes. If no comments are made within the next week, the minutes will be accepted as approved. (No comments were received, so minutes as reviewed on Feb. 19th stand approved.)

WMI Update
Brian Wolcott
- This is a 10 year project with WDOE
- Project Goal – to find where there might be a need for flexibility with Washington water law to improve river flows for fish while serving farms and groundwater capacity
- This will be done in phases:
  1) Data Collection - An initial review meeting took place on Friday and this was also an introduction/invitation for technical advisors to participate
  2) Policy - The forming of a local agency to oversee the WMI (Either by Washington or Bi-state). Initial idea is to create a Washington group and then it could expand into a Bi-state organization

Kevin Scribner
- The Ruckelshaus Study
  o WMI summary and what the initiative reports to be
  o Interviewing people in the Basin
  o Second half of the report case study’s what can be learned from the initiative
  o Case studies from other locations in the U.S., but also South Africa and Australia
- Looking into some different organization frameworks to take on some of the management of water initiative.

Funding Working Group (topic introduced by Kevin Scribner)
- Unified voice for our basin to go to legislation
  ▪ A small group got together in December got together and talked about encouraging the delegation to fund the farm bill. The new bill out that has a lot of promise

Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative
Brian Wolcott
- A draft of a letter was handed out and feed back was requested
  Teresa Yeager
  o The letter states the districts give up to 25%, however it is a little more than a 3rd
Kevin Scribner
Is this an opportunity to describe how the City of Walla Walla is doing a study and maybe we can knit together the information?

Ed Chesnut
The WWBWC has been working for over a decade

John Zerba
In the next to last sentence: don’t state the negative. The facts are that we don’t know and we need a better idea. We don’t want to become a critical groundwater area before we know about it.

- Was agreed that Brian would make corrections and John Zerba would give final approval

Project Updates:
- Zell Ditch - Had a meeting with Anderson Perry, Water Resource Department, and the Ditch Manager / Working on putting in two Weirs / Will need one more survey / Plan is to get design done by March / Then move on to get some OWEB funds in September and start the permitting.
- Eastside - All permits are in / Starting to put a bid together / Start construction in September
- Hyline - Pipe has been purchased
- Powel Pleasant View - Piping is done
- Johnson creek - Agreements are signed / plans done / bids put out for pipe and fittings
- Cottonwood - fencing has been started
- OSU modeling – will need another month before coming to council / Looking at total ditch loss
  Keith Wood & Derek Gloyn got all the city static level readings since 1999
- Recharge project – Ran pump tests and the data was really good this time / Money for sign upgrade and for continue monitoring
- EPA – Monthly meeting talking about results / Starting to collect samples again for this year
- WMI – working on data base / Got data from the Walla Walla County

Potential project proposals for OWEB
  Brian Wolcott
  - April 23rd is the deadline for Restoration or Technical Assistance Grants
    1. Ed Burlingame has a corral needs to move off of pine creek
    2. Final Design for Zell ditch Diversion
    3. A technical assistance grant for a levee setback design along the Lampson property
    4. Automated irrigation systems and alternatives to overhead watering for cooling
  - Will set a project committee review date upon completion of grants

Status of Milton-Freewater Flood Protection Levee and Improvements
- The US Army Corps of Engineers has found 3 problem sites that could lead to the levee being out of compliance within the year: 1) levee toe is exposed near Couse Ck confluence, 2) Stilling Basin floor below Nursery Bridge has a hole in it, 3) Levee toe is exposed downstream of Nursery Bridge along the east side of the river
- Applying for permit to place rock in the hole, however funds are not available to repair the levees
- The Corps will only step in when the situation is at a crisis
- Commissioner Larry Givens
  - Because of the finances, the County has a legislative team that will push to make this one of their items. They are asking for 1.2 million. This may be a two year process.
Senator’s field agents want to set up a meeting to talk about what was happening and take a tour of the levee. Will try to push this through congress and tag on to the emergency budget.

The Corps released a national review of all levees and over a hundred were in the same situation as ours.

**Nursery Bridge Ladder Improvements**
Brian Wolcott
- The Corps completed a report recently looking at actions that will improve the function of the nursery bridge fish way. After the review there are four recommendations:
  - Develop a gravel management plan for gravel and cobbles that are removed from the stilling basin
  - Concentrated Grade Controls downstream of the Nursery Bridge
  - A bedload deflector to deflect rock and debris from the ladder entrance
  - Install a stream gauge for a high flow warning system

**Proposal to Study a Municipal Water System for Highway Corridor**
Brian Wolcott
- This project will revisit a study that would get Businesses and about 200 residents along the highway onto a municipal water and sewer system. To provide clean steady water.

Larry Givens
- The storm water proposal going out county road looks pretty solid, has a plan, and has a good chance
- The Highway 11 has no plan per say; they may not push this for funding. there is a plan made
- Last agenda idea from the County is to have BLM give up holdings on the South Fork and turn over to county for park expansion.

**Approval for Jacki to be Alternate for Checking**
John Zerba made the motion
First – Larry Widner
Second – Vern Rodighiero
Motion was passed.

Adjourned at: 8:11 pm