Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
August 20, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Present:
Council Members: Leonard Brown, Stuart Durfee, Clark Lampson, Malcolm Millar, Kevin Scribner, Ray Williams, Keith Woods, John Zerba
Staff: Troy Baker, Jacqueline Boatman, Bob Bower, Bob Chicken, Will Lewis, Brian Wolcott
Guests: Bob Lewis, Brian Mahoney, Jehan-Louis Poirot, Karen Leiendecker, Mickie Chamness, Randal Son, Teresa Yeager, Terry Tolan, Tom Page, Tom Straughan, Tonya Dombrowski

Meeting started 7:00

Congressman Greg Walden Meeting
He requested an update on what improvements have been happening in the basin and an update on the Walla Walla River flow feasibility study
- The Corps of Engineers, CTUIR, and the Districts had a voice in this meeting
- A few years ago he toured the Nursery Bridge and Eastside Pipe and about piping’s effect on wells
- Discussions started that requested protection of water after it is bypassed by the districts
- Water is not yet protected for the HCP or the Feasibility study
- Tom Page questioned what kind of data they are using to say that the water isn’t getting there
- Brian stated that the need for fish rescues in the lower river highlights the low flow issues

Grant Proposals Update
WDOE Groundwater Monitoring: looks favorable for partial funding. Most important issue with this grant is to extend the monitoring study to the whole basin not just the Oregon half and it will provide the scientific basis for the two states working on policy for water management.

Locher Pit and Hall Wetland: In their second year, not sure they will get funded.

OWEB – The OWEB Board meets in LaGrande 9/18 and 9/19 and will determine state wide project funding, including the three WWBWC grants that were submitted in the Spring:
  - Burlingame: To move the corral further away from Pine Creek.
  - Lampson Levee Setback: To set back the levee for fish habitat and reduce flood energy
  - Zell Ditch Diversion: To replace the gravel dam with a rock weir.

Project Updates
  - Eastside Pushup Dam Replacement: Bid documents are now completed, there are will be a tour tomorrow (August 21st), and bids will be received next week.
  - Cottonwood Creek Restoration: Bid documents are complete, and Richard Ray would prefer that the Walker Family, who has done logging work, road maintenance on his property, completes this work. The Walker family will look over the bid documents to see if they have the equipment to do the work.

Council Members - Thank You!
For your hard work, input and guidance, WWBWC hats were provided to board members!

Salmon Safe Certification Program Update from Kevin Scribner
In partnership with Salmon Safe, the Council put in a proposal to the Bullitt Foundation and it was denied. However, NRCS and Salmon Safe may be able to use EQIP dollars to complete Salmon Safe certification for area farms
- There is an NRCS program within EQIP called: Conservation Innovation Grants
- Potential, at the State level, to designate $75K (Nationally we could go up to a million)
NRCS is researching with Salmon Safe to see if this program will match. There is movement to put proposals in this winter. This will focus on resource management insurances and market shares. This will recognize the hard work being done here in the districts.

**Pesticide Meeting in Portland**

There is a law education program in Portland that gives a class every few months. They bring in specialists from the Federal, State and Private level. The next class will focus on the Columbia River toxic issues, including pesticides. Speakers will be two of our DEQ contacts: Gene Foster and Kevin Masterson, who have been monitoring the effectiveness of Integrated Pesticide Management.

**Hudson Bay Shallow Aquifer Recharge Update**

Bob presented an update on how and why shallow aquifer recharge is being managed in the valley, and the increased demands on the aquifer.

Discussion that followed:

Kevin Scribner: How many sites? Ten more HB recharge sites?
Bob Bower: They need to be spread out not all in one area
Malcolm Millar: Small scale, a bunch of 1 acre?
Bob B: Yes.
Ron: What if we had more recharge sites up on top?
Bob B: Wonderful idea – small scale storage / affordable! Time to re-visit that idea!
Brian Wolcott: Richard Ray would like to do this at his location.
Kevin S: Anyone trying to incorporate climate change models?
Bob B: It’s going to get worse / water is going to run off sooner / snow going to get smaller / coming up with storage is critical. Better be prepared for less water.
Randal Son: Scope/complexity of recharge vs. scope/complexity of discharge
John Zerba: Water right vs water uses are two different things.
Bob B: I hope in our basin that we can recharge before the disaster strikes. We can’t keep using without recharge.
Kevin S: This report is going back to the feasibility study what then?
Bob B: I don’t know.
Malcolm M: How difficult will it be for us to find sites further Up stream?
Bob B: They will be small – don’t except quick results – long term.
Keith W: Have you plotted the best places?
Bob B: The model will show better.
Malcolm M: If you could pick some spots? Where? Area of Vern’s bulge would be best…
John Z: I don’t know where the clay layers are – after 20 foot layer of clay I got my water
Terry Tolan: It was first thought the clay liner was covering the basin, thinking there was a lake, these are lake settlements, but when a river floods there is silt and clay that is deposited on the side. Instead of a continual of a layer of clay – there are spots, but not as predictive as when you get out to the other side of the valley.
Kevin S: Is there more that we need to do to aid monitoring?
Bob B: We pretty well have it covered.
Bob – In November, there is an International Recharge Symposium in Arizona – I would like to have someone other than just me go – Ray Williams for the law and policy – John Brough for the designs – Could we fund three people? Board okay.

Meeting ended at: 8:38