Present:


Staff: Troy Baker, Jacqueline Boatman, Bob Bower, Bob Chicken, Will Lewis

Guests: Jon Brough, John Houck, Jennifer Hudson, Tony Justus, Randal Son, Tom Straughan, Corrie Thorne

Started at 7:01

Minutes:

Vern – would like to clarify his statement about the request to present a letter.

Added to last month’s minutes:

“If we give 25 cfs and the amount of the river drops we could be giving the whole river. Vern would like to see that number be a percent rather than a set number amount.”

Minutes stand with corrections.

Review of new OWEB projects:

- STELLAR natural resource education in schools and the community
- Photo Monitoring
- Monitoring - WMI hydrology monitoring and fisheries data compilation program in Oregon

Motion to submit – Kevin Scribner / Second Stuart Durfee / All in favor

Progress and Decisions made by the Walla Walla Shared Governance Mechanism Design Working Group

Review given by Kevin Scribner

Notes from handout:

1. Representatives of Walla Walla Basin entities are working together to design a shared governance mechanism to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water and fish activities in the Walla Walla Basin.
2. The group has achieved general agreement on goals and functions for a prospective shared governance mechanism: 1) Governance functions, 2) Operational functions
3. The group agreed to draft and seek basinwide endorsement for a budget proviso in the 2008 Washington Legislative sessions, as recommended by Ecology Director Jay Manning.
4. The group agreed to continue meeting approximately every 3 to 4 weeks to maintain momentum and to further develop the proposed shared governance mechanism.

It was very clear on Friday afternoon that protecting water from the Oregon side is high on the list.

There are three levels in conversation:

- Level 1 – Border to mouth water users (GFID, ditches, lower districts, and water users)
- Level 2 – Comprehensibly the whole Washington side of the watershed
- Level 3 – Reaching bi-state

Questions & Answers:

- Vern Rodighiero – On the Oregon side we’ve been studying the water for a long time. Where is the Washington side?
- Bob Bower – The Washington had one observation well for 30 years.
• Kevin Scribner – We’ve got 5 years, but there is a need for catch up. The work that has been done on the Oregon side will solidify the model.
• Bob Bower – We’ll try to find historical data.
• Vern Rodighiero – Historical data will need to be the same year and same environment to come up with something intelligent.
• Tony – Director Jay Manning said that Oregon should be doing something like Washington is doing with exempt wells.
• Randal Son – Director Manning reminded the group that his basic offer was to hand over or share regulatory policies. People are still getting their heads around their functions and each other’s possibilities.
• Tony Justus – He didn’t have a good feel how this was going to be put together, but maybe by a voluntary agreement (farmer and farm agree to do something)
• Kevin Scribner – When it gets into this Washington/Oregon it’s a regulatory side, the existing law may be inhibiting the balance between fish/water user, but it’s so convoluted that he’s offered a place for us to step in help in this. It’s partially for fish and yet it’s mandated to water users. Shouldn’t interfere with a water right unless it’s under an agreement. No one else is doing this. This is pioneering.
• Vern Rodighiero – Farmer to farmer, but nothing about City to City.
• Kevin Scribner – The city of Walla Walla is the biggest water user. The city has not yet come on board like the districts have.
• Vern Rodighiero – If we have a bad water year we could also have Milton-Freewater do some recharges. It will take so much water away; taking the water away for people, there might not be enough for farmers.
• Kevin Scribner – To be equitable all aspects of Washington needs to be involved.
• Vern Rodighiero – Aren’t they doing a conservation program like Oregon’s?
• Kevin Scribner – Only in Stuart Durfee’s (Gardena Farms) district.
• Vern Rodighiero – There’s been a lot of time and money spent on this.
• Kevin Scribner – The purpose of this plan was to develop all water from nursery bridge to pine creek – that’s not going to be an alternative. The habitat conservation plan is a voluntary process, one of the goals in the basin to see how good it is and step in also.
• Jon Brough – So far everyone’s stepped out! Everyone that can get out has gotten out!
• John Zebra – If you don’t have a gun to your head why should you put a target on your back? It is possible that the HCP does not work out. The way Fish & Wildlife is going we might not be able to live with it. If it does go through, there is a place in it that provides a place for more users to add later and be similarly protected.
• Kevin Scribner – The ESA services are looking at the other water users along the lower river. There was a de-watering event down stream. They may have increasing obligation to join.
• Tony Justus – Director Manning was sympathetic, but didn’t know of any way of protecting that water in Washington.

Review of letter to the Congress:
• John Zerba – My thought is we are starting to say too much. So I think there is too much in there.
• Kevin Scribner – Brian Wolcott asked me to read the letter that Senator Walden wrote to the Congress. And what this letter achieves is Senator Walden putting his shoulder in this action.
• John Zerba – I don’t think it would hurt if we sent it to the Washington legislators
• Ray Williams – Wouldn’t hurt to send a copy of the Senator Walden’s letter in with this letter.
• Kevin Scribner – Maybe there could be three letters
• Kat Brigham – We have been “okay” to get letters. I came here first, then to Senator Walden, and will go back to the board with the letters.
• Ed Chesnut – I would like to take out the whole second paragraph it muddies the issue.
• Malcolm Millar – Seconded that
• Ed Chesnut – Let’s keep it simple! The feasibility study can stand on it’s own. So the third paragraph can come out also. It’s nice history but not valid to the point.
• John Zerba – I’ll edit at this letter and get it out to the board members give comments back and then we’ll say it’s ready to go.
• Kat Brigham – I think it’s important to see that there has been a lot of work done here.
• Vern Rodighiero – Don’t put any fixed amount in this letter. I think it should be a percentage. Concentrate on getting the water protected in Washington. Water is protected in Oregon and let’s keep protected.
• Kat Brigham – Whatever water goes back in the river needs to be protected.
• Vern Rodighiero – It’s almost to the point that if we can’t protect it why should we keep it in

Shallow Aquifer Recharge Project Update:
Given by Bob Bower
• Vern Rodighiero – When you start the recharge how long does it take to start the infiltration?
• Bob Bower – At the HBDIC recharge site we have measured an infiltration rate of 24 feet/day. The pump testing gave us a horizontal hydraulic conductivity of around 27 meters/day. The actual groundwater velocity is less than that. Starting to get those dialed in and the model will help with the complexity.
• Vern Rodighiero – Where you’ve got such a large number of years, somewhere you have to remember there was flood then sprinkler, there’s only a foot at the most with sprinklers.
• Bob Bower – The Yakima study is looking at irrigation and its impacts. 40% increase from irrigation efficiency.
• Vern Rodighiero – In Walla Walla City’s recharge project, how do they clean the water?
• Bob Bower – They do pretreatment
• Stuart Durfee – They run it through filtration and then run it back through the wells
• Tony Justus – Pendleton runs water through a filter.

Announcements:
October 17th, 9:00 – 11:30 AM – Satellite Workshop at the WSU extension Office
EPA’s Targeted Watershed Initiative Grants: Success Stories from the Pacific Northwest
November 13th – 16th – Hood River, Oregon Watershed Council’s Conference

Meeting adjourned: 8:20