Present:
Council Members:   Ed Chesnut, Stuart Durfee, Clark Lampson, Malcolm Millar, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner, Larry Widner, John Zerba

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

Guests:        Colleen Trumbull, Jon Brough, Karen Leiendecker, Kevin Lindsey, Larry Boe, Melanie Hall, Randal Son, Stacia Peterson

Meeting Started: 7:00 pm

Minutes of January Council Meeting stand approved

Walla Walla River HCP Update – John Zerba
The Irrigation District’s draft HCP was turned into the services for them to review at the end of January. It’s now released to environmentalists and anyone who wants to look at it.

Update on the Washington’s Water Management Initiative and the development of a Shared Governance Mechanism – Kevin Scribner
Referring to the Washington side, the community over there is in a conversation to establish how to more efficiently establish the capacity to do the WMI. WDOE, the water use Regulator on the Washington side has extended an offer to the community to take responsibility for their own water.

February Update – The working group was developed and has endorsed a framework that was provided to them. (Brian Wolcott and Tony Justus were involved in reviewing the framework) This is just a general framework that will set what will be the details of what the Washington side equivalent of the watershed council will consist of. The next effort will be diving into details. Talked with Brian on how the Washington side will converse with the Oregon side. We are trying to come up with operating agreements between the two agencies. We may get some funds from the Washington legislature, to aid in looking into the legal details. With the WMI in place, the locals can take on some of the actions of the regulatory agencies. We are looking at having funding to bring in some wisdom to get the details worked out. We will be working together to engage the watershed council.

Estimating Recharge Volumes for Stabilizing and Replenishing the Walla Walla River Basin’s Shallow Aquifer System – Bob Bower
The Corps of Engineers asked for the rate at which we need to recharge the aquifer. What I’ve found from the Tech review team, we can’t get at that number because of the complications. We need to start setting goals.

Time resolution – averaged daily (multiply by acre feet)
WWRID Savings - 4,234 acre-feet in recharge mitigation
HBDIC Savings - 5,949 acre-feet in recharge mitigation
Gardena Farms Savings - 1,400 acre-feet in recharge mitigation
Mitigation Recharge Estimates - 15,610 acre-feet in mitigation recharge is an immediate goal for recharge based on change from historic Little Walla Walla flow management and pre-piping gains to aquifer from ditches.

OSU Paper: 50% reduction in spring flow since historic to current / average 15 foot decline in water table heads

64,320 to 160,000 estimated acre-feet of water lost from the aquifer storage since 1933

Next Steps
1. Draft smaller scale model: Winter 2008
2. WMI-OWEB funded Little Walla Walla System wide modeling effort: Winter 2010

Hiring Update – Bob Bower
Hydro tech candidate is in negotiation at this time.

Announcements
Kevin Scribner: Congressman Walden is opening an office in La Grande –
General opening from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, February 20th. Office staffed by Colby Marshall.

Community Questions:

Colleen Trumbull: I’m one road towards Walla Walla near Ferndale. I have springs and they had not declined in last 5 years. There has been some major excavation of springs. That could be impacting Big Springs. Little attention has been given to that at this point. Why would we want to continue development if our water is gone? I don’t believe that it’s all from diminishing water flows. We all know that the whole valley wants to be developed into vineyards. Why would we be willing to give all our water at the cost of things that have been unchanged for hundreds of years? I want to become a lot more involved. What cost are we willing to give up our springs? Too many people stick their backhoe in those creeks. We have a lot of area and technology we need to know how many new wells. It almost seems like propaganda to me. Dry land wheat changed to vineyards with digging wells.

Jon Brough in comment to Colleen stated that he has a 1872 right and has run his well 30 days straight because of no stock water.

Colleen: Diminishing water is probably true like global warming, but at the rate on Ferndale road. It’s not natural!

Over at 8:00