PRESENT

Council Members: Ed Chesnut, Stuart Durfee, Clark Lampson, Kevin Scribner, Larry Widner, Ray Williams, John Zerba
Staff: Troy Baker, Bob Bower, Bob Chicken, Wendy Harris, Will Lewis, Nella Parks, Colin Shepley, Brian Wolcott
Guests: Jon Brough, John Houck, Tony Justus, Kevin Lindsey, Brian Mahoney, John Wade

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by John Zerba.

Minutes from the May 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

Aristides Petrides Presentation on the OSU-WWBWC Surface Water-Groundwater Modeling

Bob Bower introduced Aristides Petrides who gave a presentation on the OSU-WWBWC Surface Water-Groundwater Modeling Project: Piping ditches and Aquifer Recharge scenarios. In 2004 Mr. Petrides began a study to model the surface and groundwater interactions around Milton-Freewater. The study was a collaborative effort that produced the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Overall statistics in the model calibration and validation gives satisfactory results for the Groundwater component “prefer method of validation by using all the nodes”
2. The model was capable of simulating the Walla Walla River interactions to Groundwater correlation coefficient of 92%
3. There is still a need to study the springs’ characteristics, bottom elevation, flow rate through the year, and stage discharge tables. The model was run with average flows observed at the springs.
4. The amount of water recharge to the unconfined aquifer from the irrigation canals is critical to maintain flow in the springs. Model simulation for Johnson Creek spring shows a complete cessation of flow by lining the canals. These scenarios also proved the increase flow at Johnson spring was originated from the artificial recharge project.
5. Land use showed that 94% of the used water goes to agricultural needs; from this 47% is supply by pumping groundwater, more than half of this water comes from the basalts. If the declining water levels of the basalts continue the demand of water would increase pumping from the gravels.
6. Future research will improve model development to simulate the hydrological conditions found in the area. From these studies, one of the most critical is the geological stratigraphy which is expected to increase the thickness of our aquifer layers and therefore changing storage capacity and model boundaries
7. IWFM was successful in simulating the hydrological conditions found in the Walla Walla Basin. Future versions of IWFM model are expected to have a user interface and a grid generator which will be extremely useful to start new projects and when trying to simulate processes in specific locations requiring a much finer discretization.

The difficulty of producing conclusions from the model is in direct proportion to the complexity of the scenario.

Bob Bower added that Troy is currently entering data into a new digital version that is very easy to manipulate and will be a very useful tool once it is up and running. With the new system, the end user will be able to enter
scenarios and be given their effects. It will have the capability of being able to take multiple scenarios into consideration and produce their outcomes.

**Headwaters : Ocean**

The Governor’s office is putting together a $100,000,000 initiative to assess, plan and implement a strategy that will address issues facing groundwater, surface water, stored water and source water protection. This is a collaborative project that will include geographical areas from the top of watersheds to the sea including all the lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, underground aquifers, and manmade storage reservoirs along the way.

During the spring there were meetings to strategize how best to meet the needs of all. They are looking to engage all the watersheds. Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has already been working to address these issues and will participate as appropriate with the Headwaters : Ocean initiative.

**Walla Walla Water Management Initiative and Shared Governance Mechanism Update - Kevin Scribner**

The Walla Walla Water Management Initiative will be gathering input during the months of June and July to put together a report discussing whether a water bank/exchange can form a helpful tool.

There will be a session on June 19th to discuss what opportunities there are to manage the water coming over the Oregon-Washington border. John and Brian are invited to attend this Walla Walla City initiated session. The objective is to build local awareness of bi-state issues, to look at the local and larger-scale legal precedence.

There was a very informative session at the Water Center on Friday, June 13. The main topic of event was water disputes. Information about how best to approach water disputes was discussed.

**STELLAR Updates**

Bob Chicken announced that there are eighteen children attending Science Camp this July. This is six more than last year.

**Announcements**

Nursery Bridge Fish Counts:

- Adult Chinook 325 (15 Jacks) – in May the count was more 350; however tape was down for 2-1/2 days. The number of jacks is a significant and promising number. There should be 2 to 3 times that number in the next three years.
- Steelhead 457 – Little below the 13 year average but still a reasonable number. The steelhead run is over.

Brian introduced the new Financial Manager, Wendy Harris, and intern, Colin Shepley. Colin will be giving a presentation on the Little Walla Walla Assessment at the July council meeting.

**John Zerba adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.**