Present

Staff: Troy Baker, Bob Bower, Bob Chicken, Wendy Harris, Will Lewis, Steven Patten, Brian Wolcott

Guests: Jon Brough, Jon Cole, Amber Larsen, Loren Unruh

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Vern Rodighiero

September 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes
Minutes were approved as submitted.

Staffing Update
There has been an ongoing need to bring on a Project Manager to allow Brian and Bob more time to devote to project implementation. To help keep costs down, it has been decided to move Wendy into the role of Project Manager and bring on a Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant.

Steven Patten was introduced. Steven was brought on over the summer as a temporary Field Technician. However, he became a great asset to the team and when Nella Parks let us know she was resigning, Steven’s experience and proven abilities made him the best candidate to fill the vacated position.

Oregon Solutions Team and the Milton-Freewater Levee Update
A team has been assembled to work on a solution and find funding for fixing the Levee. Discussions include short term repair goals, trying to work with FEMA on a more realistic floodplain insurance map, and a sustainable long term solution. Senator Nelson is heading up the group whose goal is to bring together entities that will be able to fix the issue. The group has been split into two committees. One will work with FEMA to come up with a better and more realistic map of the flood plain. The other will get the levee fixed and develop the long term solution for the levee. Brian was asked by Senator Nelson to chair the latter committee. Brian will keep everyone updated.

OWEB Proposal Review
The Shallow Aquifer Recharge Expansion Proposal was initially submitted in April. The proposal has been improved with more detailed design and budget, and a stronger BPA match than the April submission. WWBWC staff would like the Council’s approval to resubmit the request. The Council already approved the original submission but would like the project committee to have an opportunity to review and ask questions before the next proposal is submitted. They would like to meet approximately one week before to go over the new proposal.
**OWEB Proposal Review**
Bob Chicken presented on the different projects he is doing with the children in the Milton-Freewater Schools. He also explained that this year funding from the Wildhorse Foundation was cut from $5,000 to $2,000—leaving a large deficit. In an effort to reduce the shortfall, Bob would like council approval to submit a proposal for a $1,000 grant to the Emelia Gray Foundation. Also Bob would like Council approval to submit a proposal to OWEB very similar to last year’s in types of education activities and dollar amounts. The board approved both proposals being submitted.

**Lampson Levee Setback Design Update**
Three preliminary designs were considered. The Engineers have 3 preliminary design options to move the levee back to allow the river to meander more and have a more natural, less energy, more habitat friendly environment for fish. The designs and costing are nearly complete. Preliminary costs are around $900k for pulling out sections of the old levee, rebuilding the levee further back, buying and planting trees, excavating, rock, engineering and construction oversight. It is a lot of money but the Corps’ proposal several years ago was well over $1 million.

**McKnight Well Decommission and New Monitoring Well**
Bob Bower announced that with the help of Jon Brough, WWBWC was able to decommission the McKnight Well located on Pleasantview road. It was the oldest well west of the Walla Walla River. A new 70 ft well was drilled congruent to the old well using OWEB funds.

**NRCS – Loren Unruh**
Loren Unruh from NRCS presented two funding programs available through NRCS; Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP). EQUIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. Through EQUIP, the NRCS provides financial incentives to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations.

The Conservation Stewardship Programs is a new, voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on their agricultural and forest land. Through this program NRCS provides eligible participants with financial and technical assistance to producers to maintain and manager the existing conservation on their land while also undertaking additional conservation activities.

Anyone interested in participating or that has questions regarding these programs should contact the Umatilla County NRCS office.

**Announcements**
- OWEB Grant deadline is Oct 19th
- Network of Oregon Watershed Council Conference is October 27-30 in Klamath Falls

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.