Present:
Council Members: Ed Chesnut, Stuart Durfee, Steve Irving, Malcolm Millar, Vern Rodighiero and Larry Widner

Staff: Brian Wolcott, Rick Henry, Troy Baker, Will Lewis, Steven Patten and Chris Sheets

Guests: Jon Brough, Kevin Lindsey, and Bonnie Roemer.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Vern Rodighiero.

April 19, 2010 council meeting minutes were approved.

Oregon Solutions Team and the Milton-Freewater Levee update-Brian reported that an inspection and report are being performed on a 7 mile stretch and that many of the flap gates no longer open. The Corps has said that all of them must be functioning. The grade construction seal needs to be fixed. The Couse Creek confluence area and the Nursery Bridge areas seem to be a much bigger problem than anticipated as these areas have pretty severe structural and river down-cutting problems. The final report should be available in the next few weeks for review. The committee has been hoping that the Corps would step up and take responsibility for the major structural issues, as these are not due to maintenance or the lack thereof. The team has been continuing to work to clear the levee of debris and brush. The Corps has admitted that there may be more than a maintenance issue and that they were going to investigate and if that is the case a feasibility study will need to be performed, then a report to go before congress for appropriation and all of this could take 8-10 years. There is a workgroup meeting tomorrow from 9-11:30 at the WWBWC office and the Oregon Solutions team meeting from 1-4 tomorrow afternoon at the library.

Renewal of Oregon Lottery Funds for Water Parks and Wildlife. A ballot initiative is underway to continue the dedication of 15% of Oregon lottery funds to projects that improve Oregon’s Parks and watersheds. Oregon voters overwhelmingly passed the original ballot measure in 1998, but that funding expires in 2014. This new initiative will go before voters in November 2010 to rededicate that funding. Petition signatures are necessary to get the measure on the ballot. Anyone who would like more information or would like to sign the petition, Brian has it with him and would appreciate anyone who would like to sign it do so after the meeting or stop by the office.

Steven gave an update on the groundwater levels and groundwater tracer study.
Rick updated us on the Walla Walla Basin Aquifer Replenishment and Spring Restoration Program.

Brian gave an update for Kat regarding the WW River Flow Enhancement Feasibility study. The Senate has started the water projects approval program and not sure if the study will make the Corps list. The new amount attached to this project is $400 million. Washington State has a $40 million match should this project go through.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.