Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council  
July 29, 2010  
Draft Meeting Minutes

**Present:**  
Staff: Brian Wolcott, Rick Henry, Will Lewis, Steven Patten, Troy Baker, Chris Sheets and intern, Valerie Scott  
Guests: Jon Brough, Jon Cole, Kevin Lindsey, Bonnie Roemer, Mark Fortune, and John Houck.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Vern Rodighiero.

**June 21st council meeting minutes were approved.**

**Oregon Solutions Team and the Milton-Freewater Levee update**-The USACE inspection has occurred and identified several new structural problems since the last inspection. The final inspection report is not available yet. The Oregon Solutions team met June 30th to discuss the known problema sites. Also, there has been a meeting and tour with Congressman Walden and Federal staff from the Corps, FEMA, NOAA Fisheries, and USFWS to assist with developing solutions. There is a need to develop a funding strategy to assess, design, and fix the additional structural problems with the levee and the Federal agencies need to agree on how vegetation needs to be managed. An initial quote has come in on clearing all vegetation off the levee of $880,000.00 and that does not include the amount it will take to fix all the holes left from removal of tree stumps and root systems. The team is trying to put together numbers for a bond, but they really need all agencies involved to get together and agree upon what must be done. DEQ has approved help in the amount of $104,000.00.

**Update on the Corps/CTUIR Walla Walla River Flow Improvement Project** – estimated costs for final design and construction have increased now to $500 million. There is a need for local input to find ways to cut costs. Separate meetings occurred with Governor Gregoire and Senator Cantwell to describe the need for the project and that we will work to develop a more reasonably priced project. A technical workshop will be announced soon.

**West Little Walla Walla River water rights**-water rights 1895 and newer on the lower end of the West Prong were shut off June 30th. This started occurring in 2005 and now occurs each year. Streamflows for fish and wildlife have also diminished. Designs for measuring devices and headgates are being developed. Efficiency, storage, and groundwater recharge are being investigated to help solve the problem. Landowners Bonnie Roemer and Mark Fortune reported that they had cleaned up a 1-2 hundred foot section of the river of canary grass and limbs and that seemed to have improved the flow somewhat.

**Basalt aquifer water interaction with the surface water shallow aquifer model**- Rick spoke on the information needed to improve the groundwater model accuracy in regards to basalt water usage in the model area on an annual basis.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.