Present:

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

Guests: Chris Marks, Jon Brough, Larry Givens, Sue Greer, Teresa Kilmer, Bonnie Roemer & Joe Roemer.

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by John Zerba.

April 18, 2011 council meeting minutes were approved.

Milton-Freewater Levee update – Permits have been submitted for Levee repairs at Nursery Bridge, below Nursery Bridge, at Couse Creek bridge, and for work on culverts. There is some concern as to the capacity maximum of some of the bridges. GeoEngineers is completing their hydraulics analysis. A herd of goats has removed lower vegetation from about 2 miles of the levee. Progress has been made on reaching consensus on a levee vegetation plan, but a definite plan has not been agreed upon.

Walla Walla River Flow Enhancement Feasibility Study Discussion – CTUIR, the sponsors of this Corps of Engineers project met with members of the community to discuss methods to reduce the current costs of the project. The meeting on the 26th ended with the CTUIR still not ready to pull the plug on this project and look at studying alternatives as of yet. Some cost saving ideas were discussed, but they are not looking at alternatives to this project at this time.

Umatilla County Development Code Amendments – The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners are evaluating proposed Development Code amendments developed by the Planning Commission. These refer mainly to industrial development in rural areas, such as wind power generation facilities, and how to reduce impacts to the county’s residents and resources, as these types of projects are reviewed for potential permitting. Oral testimony is now closed and written testimonies are being accepted. The final hearing and decision will be made on June 28th at the EOC building.

WWBWC Committee work. The Financial Committee provided an update on review of our Fiscal Procedures and the Bylaws Committee provided an update on Bylaws review. The financial committee met prior to this meeting. There are a few things they would like to change on the council’s Fiscal Policy and then it should be ready to be adopted at the next board meeting. The Bylaws committee is still working on the council and foundation bylaws. Some research on some areas is still needed.
**Little Walla Walla River** - The Little Walla Walla River winter flows have noticeably diminished during the last century. Rick Henry showed Little Walla Walla River diversion data from the 1930s to present and led a discussion on possible water management changes during that time period. Many attendees had ideas of possible reasons for changes during that time. Many thought the mills running at the time could account for changes, also added was there was a lawsuit that was won in early 1970’s in regards to water rights and the Hudson Bay District. Flood irrigation was greatly decreased during the late 60’s, early 70’s.

Discussion was also had about winter recharge and running water in the WWRID system. There was a request for results from this past winter and winter management could continue at the same rate this next winter if it shows to be beneficial.

There was also talk of possible micro hydro power to be produced during the winter water run. John Brough said that would be great if the laws had changed regarding micro hydro licensing, and Teresa thought that the law makers had changed many of the prohibitive restrictions.

**Announcements:**

Next Meeting: June 20th, 2011 at the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.