Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council  
July 18, 2011  
Draft Meeting Minutes

Present:

Staff: Brian Wolcott, Chris Sheets, Steven Patten, Will Lewis, Troy Baker and Bob Chicken.

Guests: Jon Brough, Rey Weidert, and Chris Marks

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Vern Rodighiero.

June 20, 2011 council meeting minutes were approved.

Umatilla County Development Code Amendments – Brian reported that last month the commissioners of Umatilla County approved the Development Code amendments addressing commercial wind power generation impacts to the county’s residents and resources. Some of the amendments include a 2 mile setback from homes and towns, no wind machines in high erosion areas of 25% grade or more, and critical elk range. Brian showed map of areas which were affected by the amendments.

Milton-Freewater Levee Update- repairs that are scheduled for this summer are getting ready to begin and the gravel and rock removed from the stilling basin will remain in the river downstream of the site. The M-4 flow measurement site just below the Nursery Bridge stilling basin has eroded another 1.7 feet. USFW wanted to check on the Eastside rock berm structure and wanted to know about designs and a longer term solution, which they would be willing to match if we could get OWEB funding for designs. Representative Smith and Senator Nelson got $3.2 million in state funds for matching the local bond funds to fix the levee. FEMA has been informed of the LIDAR flight that was performed and that data will be used to prepare a new flood plain map that is accurate. Brian talked about the options for the entrance to Couse Creek and how to improve fish passage and possibly habitat. The tribes have committed to money for the designs. Brian showed pictures of problem and opportunity areas on the levee and possible solutions were discussed for improving flood capacity, stabilizing eroding reaches, and evaluating the benefits of a levee setback at the old gravel pits.

Lampson Levee Setback- Brian reported that work has begun on this project this week as the DEQ water quality permit was the final permit needed and it had been received. They are removing some trees and portions of the private levee. The project is going well so far.

Zell Ditch Diversion Grade Control- The engineer met with Bob Humbert for a better understanding about what has been happening with the downcutting of the river and to discuss the other guidelines of the project.
Walla Walla Water Management Partnership (Washington side)— they have approved three Local Water Plans, which are new ways to manage water. The WWBWC will be working on each of them, as each has a recharge component in the projects: Those projects are located on the Gardena Farms Irrigation district, including the Locher pit recharge site expansion, the Stiller Schwenke farm along lower Mill Creek, and on lower Yellowhawk Creek.

STELLAR- We watched a video of the Watershed Field Day that Bob had made by Cody Clark and he reported on the Summer Science Camp that went from last Wednesday until today. Bob talked about the comparison study the kids were focused on this year. Thursday they went to the Mottet elk exclosure and took different measurements in and out of the exclosure, Friday they went to Lyons Ferry hatchery and then it was off to Camp Wooten for the rest of the week.

Flow Gauges- Will gave a presentation on the flow gauges and explained that the gauge at Grove school bridge was updated hourly and through satellite transmitted to our website. Pictures he showed from Nursery bridge showed the amount of down cutting since 2009.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: August 15, 2011 at the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.