Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
October 17, 2011
Draft Meeting Minutes

Present:

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

Guests: Jon Brough, Chris Marks and Natasha Bellis

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:02 by John Zerba.

September 19, 2011 council meeting minutes were approved.

OWEB Project Proposals –

** STELLAR-** A 2 year proposal in the amount of $29,994 was submitted to OWEB. This was the proposal that was discussed at the September 19th meeting.

**Smith Diversion**- Brian submitted the Smith Diversion proposal to OWEB in the amount of $20,250. Malcolm asked if the Corps is in approval with this project. Brian said they will have to look at it and we will have to see what the engineers say. In the meantime, there are some BPA funds to start work on the design.

**Milton-Freewater Levee repair update** – Vern reported the stilling basins are done and the west side levee work that has been scheduled will be done by November 1st. The rest will have to be done in 2012. Some of the flapper gates have been replaced and others repaired. The encroachments are being dealt with, including the WWBWC Grove gauge and M4 gauge. We need to have a temporary set up of the M4 for next season as this is a very important measurement to have.

**Water Transaction options to consider** – Natasha Bellis with The Freshwater Trust gave an informative presentation regarding how they are working to restore water flows and information regarding the types of programs they offer water right holders to help with this process.

**Water conservation, water reuse, and water storage funds available**- Oregon Water Resource Department has competitive funding available for feasibility studies and planning out one or more of these water use enhancement activities. Rick discussed his thoughts on the project he would like to submit for funding. It would be a Walla Walla valley groundwater restoration analysis and strategic action plan that is based on assessments and basin pilot projects, implementation of new sites, quantifying amounts of water needed for recharge projects to benefit stream flows, and results monitoring. Ron stated that he felt strongly that we needed
more actual recharge projects. Rick made a point that we have so much data but in order to effectively use this information to be helpful in the future we need to do the analysis to help us make smarter decisions regarding our watershed. Chris Marks commented that an aquifer storage and recovery plan would be helpful. This may help avoid the tribes pulling a water right opt out clause and leaving us “high and dry” if we were to have a long term limited license with them and their Corps project came through. Ray Williams thought it should go to the project committee before the rest of the board. There is a December 15th deadline.

By-Laws: Our apologies as the wrong version of the By-Laws was inadvertently sent out to the directors. The correct version will be sent before the next meeting for review so that they can hopefully be approved at the next meeting.

Announcements:

Wind development project/Foothills transmission line hearing, 11/17/11, 6:00 PM

US Forest Service is planning a Fire Risk Reduction thinning project on Tollgate Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Conference, at Sunriver, 11/9-11/11

Next Meeting: November 21st, 2011 at the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.