Present:

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

Guests: Chris Marks and Rey Weldert.

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

February 20, 2012 council meeting minutes and minutes from the January council meeting were not approved at the beginning of the meeting due to lack of a board quorum. Once more board members arrived (many were at a frost control meeting that ran into our council meeting), the minutes for January and February were unanimously approved.

Walla Walla Technical Review Team meeting report: We had a great turn out this year with, fish managers, locals, and several board members, as well as others attending. Rick reported that many agencies gave updates on their own projects and that 80+ people attended. There were some great discussions about future recharge sites. Rick felt that this was a very successful meeting. The meeting was similar to WW Technical Work Group meetings we have had in the past with water monitoring and fish monitoring reports presented to an audience that included water managers and fish managers from both states, the Umatilla Tribes, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Discussions included targeting flow impaired river reaches with recharge projects, fish production, and restoration projects. Troy added that all presentations will soon be available on the WWBWC website.

Zell Irrigation Diversion fish passage project update- the designs are still in the development stage and additional funding has been secured. The goal is designs and permits this spring and construction this summer. The goal is to raise the grade of the river to get water into the ditch and avoid the need for annual construction of a gravel and cobble dam in area that is spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and salmon.

Smith Concrete Berm fish passage project update – design concepts are being debated. Construction may occur as soon as this summer. The best approach would be to keep flows more centered at low and high flows, and something that allows large and small fish to pass upstream. Engineers will suggest replacing the structure at Marie Dorian too.

Nursery Bridge fish passage project update – design concepts and permitting have been discussed. The Watershed Council may serve as pass through for funding. The tribes have shown interest in using their funds to make sure the fish can make it up to the fish ladder. There were
meetings last week to discuss designs, with one of them being a series of grade control structures, but we should have the concept in the next week. This project should help with our dealings with FEMA as it will divert water from the toe of the levee. The goal is to complete construction this summer in conjunction with the levee repair work at that location.

**CTUIR/Corps Feasibility Study update**- Chris Marks gave an update on this subject. He reiterated the two big issues of this project being the high cost and design bi-state flow protection. The Corps did find substantial savings of $125 million in savings on the original design by rerouting the pipeline and implementing other reduction measures suggested by the basin, but that still leaves a cost of roughly $3400 Million. 175 CFS at over $400 million is not considered feasible. The Tribes feel that the project that gives the most “bang for their buck” is the downsized goal of the project which is to keep 140 CFS exchange within the river with an estimated cost of $2332 million. The 100 CFS exchange would cost around $2310 million. Integrating a water rights settlement plan has been difficult. For the moment the Corps study was completed with a No Action Report and will be has been shelved, with the option to reopen once the flow protection issues and the money issues are worked out. In all reality it will likely be 2014 before the Corps study could be picked up again completed with a project recommendation. The CTUIR water rights settlement flow claim, which is being developed to fully consider using a settlement to help overcome inadequate state law and high costs is anticipated to be available will be available by next winter for review.

**Nichols Canyon stormwater sediment control**- Brian talked with Dave Bradshaw from the city about the storm water sediment issues and whether he thought we should go after dollars for silt deposit control along the road by Jim Goodenough’s house but Dave though the city had it under control. The City will continue to monitor it and let us know if assistance is needed.

**Frog headgates/automation project update**- The engineer for this project met with the involved parties and answered the questions from HBDIC to satisfy the issues they had and the new headgates should be here soon. The old headgates have been reinstalled for the time being.

**OWEB proposal for next phase of the Fruitvale project**- Brian presented this project to the board for approval of submission to OWEB. This project will deal with erosions problems and include a series of headgate improvements with 7 new weir boxes which OWEB will pay for and 15 new flowmeters which will be paid for by BPA. This proposal will have $35,300 coming from OWEB, $30,221 from BPA and the FWUA will contribute $5,255 toward installation. Malcolm moved to go forward with this proposal with Stuart seconding, the board approved unanimously with the condition that the project committee meet and approve.

**Announcements:**

**Assistant Watermaster position has been posted.**

Next Meeting: April 16th 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.