Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council  
April 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes

**Present:**

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

Guests: Chris Marks, Jed Volkman, Sue Greer, Larry Givens, Chris Magan and Rey Weldert.

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

March 19, 2012 council meeting minutes were corrected by Chris Marks and approved by the board.

**Stillman Ditch Piping project update:** Wendy showed designs of the Stillman ditch piping project. This project is necessary to get all water users along this ditch their water as the end users have not been getting water. This project is now being funded by BPA as well as OWEB. The bidding has been opened to contractors on this project and are due by May 25th. This project will include installing a measuring device.

**Smith Concrete Berm fish passage project update** – Brian showed the designs for this project which call for a foot and a half recess in the center of the berm to allow for fish passage. ODFW are reviewing the designs and hopefully will approve so permitting can begin.

**Zell Irrigation Diversion fish passage project update** – Brian showed pictures of the diversions and explained Bob Humbert’s work that he has done. Unfortunately the high water event that occurred last week blew out a lot of structure. Brian is looking into moving the point of diversion upstream 500’, but possibly having users have to recertify their water right diversion point could be a problem and a cost to the users. He said he should have more detailed designs for the agencies this week. This matter will be discussed again at the May meeting.

**Nursery Bridge fish passage project update** – It looks like this project will happen at a later date, hopefully by summer of 2013. There have been issues with the design and the funding. This area no longer is requiring levee repair as the down cutting of the river has increased the flood capacity. It was reported that the Spring Chinook are coming back very late. The numbers have been very small thus far.

**Columbia River Water opportunities** – Oregon and Washington have been discussing possibilities of using water from the Columbia River to help farms and fish in the Walla Walla valley. It was discussed that this exchange could possibly be used for mitigation with the tribes.
This would be a possible opportunity to make better usage of the May flows. More meetings will be held regarding this issue and Brian encourages anyone that can, to go. Ray said he would be interested as well as John.

**Frog head gates/automation project update**- The head gates are not here yet. Once they arrive, Teresa will coordinate time that will work for everyone when the time comes to install them.

**By-laws review**- Clark made note of a couple of places that needed a little work. Article IV, Section 2, needs changed to “officers” otherwise it is just a repeat and in Article VII, Section 1 we need to get rid of the last sentence as it contradicts what was already stated and agreed upon. Chris will make changes and e-mail to Ed, John, and Clark and send hard copy to Vern.

**Announcements**: WWBWC was asked to sponsor Grant Hendley in the Tour De Frog event and the board didn’t think it was a good idea. The staff agreed that they would personally sponsor Grant and split the $25 fee.

Sue Greer announced that meetings are going to be held by OWEB regarding long terms strategies and encourages attendance. There will be 6 meetings throughout the state with one being May 7th at Baker City and May 8th at John Day. Each meeting site will have a morning and afternoon meeting to make it easier for people to fit into their schedule.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.