Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
July 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Present:

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

Guests: Jon Brough, Chris Marks, Kevin Lindsey, Marie Cobb

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

May 21, 2012 and June 18, 2012 council meeting minutes were approved with the correction of Graham’s name in the June Minutes.

Smith Concrete Berm fish passage project update – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has given their approval of this project after some changes were made. Additional permits are still needed. Brian is waiting for the final cost breakdown from the engineers and then will be contacting construction companies to put in bids.

Zell Fish Passage Project update- We received the final designs on Friday and the costing report today. Brian showed the designs which also include grade control structures for the Marie Dorian Park stretch of the river. The proposed two grade control structures at the Zell diversion would stop the down cutting problem. Cost analysis shows the project to be around $600k. We currently have about $200k, but we plan to do this project in phases. The plan is to start on the upper structure and move the diversion.

Shallow aquifer recharge water – We have 5 Oregon projects planned with the Anspach and Trumbull projects scheduled to be done by end of October. Anspach will more than likely be a gravity fed infiltration gallery and the Trumbull project will tie into the Hyline pipe. The designs are being revised by Bernie Hewes at this time. Ron stated that the property north of Trumbull has underground water and sinking issues already and he would prefer the original design that would go further south alongside Trumball lane. The Barrett project is having a modification to the design done by Bernie Hewes and then it will be ready to go. Draft designs are complete for the Northwest Umapine site. We are still working on purchasing the Hulette Johnson site for additional recharge. We have a goal of putting together a recharge strategy plan that will be developed for the whole valley. Vern stated that we need to keep water flowing down the LWW during winter for natural recharge. Ralph said the Fruitvale system has 5 c.f.s. it can request and insurance good for running water all seasons.

Water Quality Monitoring – Water quality testing costs the WWBWC thousands of dollars every year. Oregon requires testing 2 times a year while Washington requires 6 times per year. We would like to get to the place where we can go from a reactionary approach to proactive
approach, whereas the contaminants are detected before entering the aquifer. Phil Richerson, from DEQ was approached with this idea where a real time telemetry system would be put in place and update the website continuously. Conversations are promising and a proposal is being developed.

**CTUIR/Corps Walla Walla River Flow Improvement Feasibility Study**- The Corps came back to the Tribes in June and let them know that the No Action Report will not protect them from stopping the project all together. They have 3 options-

1. Change to inactive status
2. Basically hit the “reset” button wherein the project would be considerably downsized to 3 year, $3M, 3” document
3. Retain active status in which there would be 3 requirements
   a. Finish study by September 2014
   b. Reasonable plan done by December 2012
   c. Decide what process will be used in Washington

**Monitoring team vehicle**- Discussion was held regarding the WWBWC purchasing a vehicle for field work. The wear and tear on employee vehicles can be excessive and BPA will give us funding for a dedicated vehicle.

**Muddy Frogwater booth**- the staff will set up and run a booth at the Aug 17-19 event. Board members and others are invited to join us.

**Announcements** – none

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m

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