Present:

Staff: Brian Wolcott, Steven Patten, Wendy Harris, Will Lewis, Chris Sheets, Lyndsi Thomas, and Graham Banks.

Guests: John Wells, Sue Greer, Teresa Kilmer, Charlie and Suni Danforth, Ann Jolly, Natasha Bellis, and Richard Jolly.

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

August 20, 2012 council meeting minutes were approved as reported.

Smith Concrete Berm fish passage project update- Construction of this fish passage project started Tuesday of last week. A “V” has been notched in the center of the concrete grade control sill and the rock structure that is being constructed below the concrete sill is almost finished. Tomorrow they will be moving water flow back to normal. The project has been monitored by the fish biologists. It should be done by Wednesday and then some rip rap work needs to be done that is being funded by the Water Control District. We should have photos to see at the next meeting.

Zell Fish Passage Project update- We received the final designs late so the permitting of this project was not able to be completed. Many of the permits have been received but this project will have to be put off till next summer. We currently have $200k of the $400k needed. The water users are going to meet about forming a formal district on Wednesday night. The Zell Ditch users are forming into a ditch organization and they will elect officers and work on the By-laws. There were 18 original water right certificates which have been divided and sub-divided several times.

Trolley Lane water efficiency pipe installation- Wendy gave an update on this piping project. This project has actually been in the making for about 3 years. The 3 diversion boxes have been completed. Four irrigators will be benefitting from this BPA funded project which should be done by October 5th. This was a project that was identified by the Assistant Watermaster as a problem area and we were asked to help come up with a project to help this area.

Shallow aquifer recharge water – We have submitted our application for a limited license to include the Hulette Johnson property and 4 other future sites. There is a mandatory 14 day waiting period and then we will be going ahead with the Anspach and Trumbull projects, hopefully before next month’s meeting. The Trumbull project has been moved all the way to the East side of the property and Dennis Burks and the landowner are okay with the plans, but we still need a signed landowner agreement. Even if we don’t get the new limited license for some
reason we still have the existing one which is actually for 5 c.f.s. more than the new one we applied for. Nov. 1st through May 15th is recharge season and we usually run at least 75% of that time. Usually our longest down time is just for maintenance. We usually get around 4000 acre feet put into the ground at the Hulette Johnson property.

Wind Farm Transmission Route – Richard Jolly gave a presentation on the proposed transmission lines to go across and along Couse Creek. He asked the WSC board if the council staff would be able to get the ESEE study that LUBA is requiring done. The discussion was tabled as it will have to be looked at in greater detail before WSC employees would know if they could help.

Critical Low Flow Plan- Natasha Bellis met with Brian and Bill Duke of Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife to discuss whether it would be useful. She said a plan for Oregon would be substantially different than the plan in Washington. She asked if we could get together a group to discuss: do we need a plan?, what a plan for Oregon would entail, if there would be compensation to landowners, etc. Ray was concerned due to the fact that everything that is done over here to improve flows in Oregon can be undone as soon as it goes beyond the state line. Teresa would be willing to meet with this group.

OWEB water monitoring proposal and STELLAR watershed science proposal- Steven would like to submit a monitoring grant proposal to OWEB in the amount of $98K for two years with BPA and The Freshwater Trust both being used as match funds. Graham will be applying for a $25K two year grant from OWEB and has been working on this proposal. The resubmission of the Fruitvale water efficiency grant, and the STELLAR proposal and the monitoring proposal were approved by the project committee which met right before the council meeting. Unfortunately there was not a quorum of Board members so these proposals could not be voted on at this council meeting.

Announcements – We will be participating in Return to the River once again at WWCC Water center, Saturday, Oct. 20th from noon to 4p.m.

Graham will be doing a river clean up at Marie Dorian Park on Sat., Oct 6th from 9-11.

Oct. 4th there is a Pesticide Stewardship workshop in Hood River

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m

Next Meeting: October 22nd at the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St, 7:00-8:30 p.m.