Present:

Staff:  Brian Wolcott, Steven Patten, Wendy Harris, Graham Banks, Troy Baker, Will Lewis, and Eli Robinson.

Guests:  Jon Brough, Blaise MacPherson, Bob Lewis, Kevin Lindsey, Molly Reid, and Rey Weldert

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

Minutes from the May 20, 2013 board meeting were approved with a note to change the heading from “Project Committee Meeting” to “Meeting Minutes”.

**River Flows and Fish Numbers report** – Brian reported on river flows and fish counts. The Grove School Gauge measurement was 135 cfs. Flow at the McDonald Road gauge was very low. Pepper Bridge was at around 15 cfs. Beet Road had a reading of approximately 20 cfs with a water temperature of 70°F. The Touchet reading was around 70 cfs. All flow measurements are quite a bit below average. This year has the potential to be a very challenging year to make the water serve the needs of irrigators and fish. Water to irrigators was already starting to be turned off.

Brian noted that we were at the tail end of the salmon run and the fish count at Nursery Bridge was only 75 with no fish crossing Nursery Bridge for two weeks. That is around 100 fish below the projected number which was very low and it was unclear why. Rey Weldert with CTUIR contributed that all fish counts are well below average around the region and it is not clear what the cause was for the decrease.

**BPA Funding and Science Review** – In February the WWBWC staff submitted their Geographical Review to ISRP for WWBWC’s BPA funding. Brian received this email from BPA Project Manager, Tracey Yerxa:

> I am looking over the ISRP review comments on the project proposals for the geographic review and ISRP said that project 2007-396-00 “meets scientific review criteria.” This is awesome, and it means you did a great job on your proposal and they are not requiring you to do anything else.

Your proposal is one of only 13 proposals that meets the ISRP scientific criteria (most other proposal sponsors have to provide input/make changes to their proposals based on
the ISRP review). Congratulations on all the hard work you and others at the Watershed Council did in writing this proposal. Good job!!

**Joe West Bridge flooding issue update** – Flooding issues at Joe West Bridge are beginning to affect the Bolen Kelly project. The river is migrating to the south, cutting into the bank, and coming up onto the road. Brian met with the County Road Master. They are unable to assist much with this issue because they can only work within the road right of way and have far less funds in their budget. As a short-term solution, Brian is looking into working with the upriver landowner to create a project that would assist with slowing the river which may help in stay within the existing channel. In the long-term, Brian proposes that the river needs to be re-routed to its natural channel.

The need to address cobble deposits at Tum-a-Lum was introduced. WWBWC staff is aware of the issue and will continue to look for a resolution.

**Levee Update** – Revised flood maps have been approved by FEMA. Nursery Bridge Grade Control Survey and Design started. The general concept is that there will be a series of grade control weirs with a series of drops that will allow fish to move up stream while slowing the unraveling of the systems with riprap structures that may or may not have a steel plate. These will be plates that will be lower in the center to allow for fish passage during low flows. CTUIR and MFWCD are funding this project.

**Zell Ditch Diversion Fish Passage Project Update** – The project has received a verbal approval by the Corps of Engineers which will allow the project to finally move forward. The funding will cover pipe, a new headgate, and two roughened channels. The length of this project site is comparable to the Lampson project. Brian will be sending out a request for bids for the upper two structures and is putting together SOW for the final designs. ODFW will move the fish screens at their cost. Funding for the project is coming from BPA, DEQ, OWEB, USFW, and Blue Sky.

**WWBWC Vehicle Purchase** – Bids have been received for a WWBWC vehicle purchase. Staff now needs to meet with the vehicle committee (Ralph, Malcolm, and John) to discuss the proposals.

**Announcements:**

- WWBWC has been approved for $108,000 in Council Support funds from OWEB. The Little Walla Walla River Restoration, Shallow Aquifer Recharge Program, and Boloen Kelly Habitat Design proposals are still under review. Brian and Steven toured the review team to the project sites the prior week. Sue Greer should be giving us an idea soon if these proposals will be funded.
- Brian – Please add here about OWEB possibly allowing special requests for large project $s. Sorry, I just didn’t get this section well enough.
- The need for an agricultural chemical collection event is needed. WWBWC staff will look into further.
Kat announced that on July 9th the Northwest Planning Council will be meeting regarding the Walla Walla Hatchery.

Brian introduced Eli Robinson and Blaise Macpherson. Eli is interning with WWBWC this summer. Blaise is interning with the Umatilla Watershed Council.

Brian is still working with Hulette Johnson and the appraiser to see if there is any way of bridging the gap on the Hulette Johnson recharge site land purchase.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m

Next Meeting: July 15th at the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St, 7:00-8:30 p.m.