Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council  
January 20, 2014  
Annual Executive Meeting Minutes

Present:  
Staff: Brian Wolcott, Steven Patten, Wendy Harris, Troy Baker, Tara Patten and Chris Sheets.

This Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by John Zerba.

OWEB policy change: Brian reported that OWEB has implemented stricter policy regarding watershed council By-Laws and that we should have a meeting of that committee to discuss places that we may not be in compliance. Some areas that Wendy thinks we may need to work on are; following our election process as described in our by-laws and spelling out the board representation in the by-laws.

Terms of members and election of officers: We have 5 people whose terms have expired as of December 31, 2013. They are Teresa, Malcolm, Ralph, Larry and Hulette. The three members present all want to stay on the board and a letter will be sent to Hulette and Larry. Since we are behind schedule on elections, we will proceed as follows: An ad will be placed in the newspapers that positions will be open and nominations accepted the next business day after this meeting. The nominating committee will meet prior to the next regular scheduled meeting to decide which 5 people they will recommend to the remaining board members for positions on the council board at the regular February meeting. At the February meeting after the nominating committee makes their recommendations the nominations will be open to the floor. If there are no further nominations the members will vote on all 5 positions to be filled the next 3 years. Once the positions are filled, we can have elections for officers and assign committee members. A letter will be sent to the county if any new people are elected to the board, for their approval.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.
Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
January 20, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Absent Members: Kat Brigham (Chris Marks was in attendance), Stuart Durfee (excused), Hulette Johnson, Larry Widner (excused).

Staff: Brian Wolcott, Steven Patten, Wendy Harris, Graham Banks, Troy Baker, Tara Patten and Chris Sheets.

Guests: Chris Marks, Lindsey Jolly, Cody Grant, and John Brough.

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:10 by John Zerba.

December 16th, 2013 minutes were approved as submitted however there was a question as to whether there was a quorum due to boardmember reappointments.

Nursery Bridge Fish Passage Project Update – Brian reported that Anderson-Perry and GeoEngineers original design concept was problematic and so they have developed alternatives and a meeting was held the prior week with agency staff to discuss what the preferred alternative should be. All the plausible scenarios that would work best for river bed stability and for fish seem to be in the 2-3 million dollar range. One option would be similar to the Mill Creek channel upstream of Walla Walla where there are channel spanning concrete grade control berms, but this new design would have berms with notched out centers for fish passage. The Water Control District does have some funds they had set aside for Nursery Bridge, but they would have to be used by this summer. WWBWC has set aside $250K from BPA and a $200K proposal has been submitted to OWEB. The WCD is concerned about spending any more of their money on designs without a date extension of the current agreement with the tribes. Bill Duke from ODFW has sent Brian links to possible new funding. Vern added that the money the WCD has needs to be used before summer of 2015, so one option would be to stockpile rock for constructing the project later in the summer of 2015. Ray asked about doing a narrow but deeper structure and Brian said the concern with that approach is logs and large debris filling the channel when we have high water events.

Smith Sill Fish Passage Project Update: Brian reported that this emergency fish passage project has experienced some erosion problems since it was finished due to high flows being focused on a narrow part of the river because of tree growth and a log jam that formed just upstream from the project. Some revisions need to be made to the structure in a second phase to make it more permanent. ODFW want to see the structure lengthened. GeoEngineers will be able to put together designs through the permitting phase for $15k. The original structure was 45
Walla Walla River Stakeholders meeting with NMFS and USFWS, report: Chris Marks reported that at this meeting hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, there was talk about the Walla Walla River flows and habitat and what improvements have happened in the past 12 years and what is planned in the future and that the Tribes and agencies would like to see at least 50 cfs in the river all year long. CTUIR of course would like to see more water in the river for the fish. Chris reported that they would be drafting a letter to the Corps about restoration needs and thanked everyone who came. Brian asked if the letter to the Corps would be cc’d to congressmen and Chris was not sure of this.

Walla Walla River Stream Flow Feasibility Study Update: Brian reported that he and Chris Hyland have been putting together a steering committee comprised of Tim Deruwe, Mike Ingham, Ron Brown, Ray Williams, Eric Hartwig, Derek Sandison, Mike Ladd, Paul LaRiviere, Bill Duke, Chris Marks, Chris Hyland, and himself. He asked the board if he thought they had a pretty good representation. John asked about the municipalities and Brian thought they would be brought in for projects and for technical review. Chris Marks mentioned Scott McCullough from Touchet and Lowden Water users and irrigators. Ray said there is no reason people can’t be brought in as they go.

Staff were asked for an update on the Hulette Johnson recharge site, and were told that there has been some ongoing research on water rights for an additional well associated with the property and that a new appraisal will have to be completed, but it has been assigned to an acquisition team at BPA and we have been waiting to hear back from Hulette.

The issue of White Ditch Piping around Dugger Creek was also asked about and John reported that it was a couple of years away yet.

Announcements: no announcements

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 17th, 2014 at the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St, 7:00-8:30 p.m.