Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
May 19, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present:

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

Guests: Chris Marks, Kevin Lindsey, Rey Weldert, Molly Reid and John Brough.

Absent:
Council Members: Kat Brigham (excused), Ed Chesnut (excused), Steve Irving (excused) Clark Lampson (excused), Ray Williams (excused), Hulette Johnson,

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

The April 21, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Flow Study-Brian reported that the budget and draft SOW for this project study has been drafted by the steering committee. The steering committee is made up of 18 participants and 2 alternates with Brian and Chris Hyland leading the project. Draft strategies have been developed and initial tasks identified to hopefully reach the interim flow goals for fish. Just as Brian does, Chris Hyland and Chris Marks also report to different groups and invite their input to be taken back to the steering committee meetings and discussed. Brian gave a Power Point presentation of the draft budget of $600K and each task that has been identified by the steering committee along with the budgeted amount for each task. The tribes have asked for a change of language to the SOW with 3 areas emphasized 1) large scale water projects 2) flow enhancement and 3) the plan be integrated with fish passage and habitat work. The Tribes would also like to have the outcome expected to be clarified with consistent language on short term vs. long term flow targets, clarify who will be using the $ with each task and have a sequential process to determine spending. Ralph thinks there still needs to be more landowners from the headwaters involved (Forest Service and BLM).

TMDL Effectiveness Monitoring-Jim Ross from Washington Dept. of Ecology’s Spokane office gave an update on the Washington effectiveness monitoring and water quality study that they are currently looking at doing at 30-35 sites along WW River, Pine Creek, North and South Forks of the Touchet River and Mud Creek, to name a few. He is hopeful that they will be able to use a lot of the data that WWBWC has collected. This study is to start in July and end in June of next year and hopefully get the report of this study out by June 2016. They will be monitoring for fecal coliforms, pH, dissolved oxygen, pesticides, and PCBs.
Nursery Bridge Fish Passage Project Update: BPA amendments are done and funding is in place. Brian showed a presentation of the designs although during a meeting two weeks ago with the impacted agencies there was some sever criticism of the design, so there will be modifications to the design. The first phase would be done simultaneously with the WCD Eastside levee repair to alleviate as much disturbance as possible. Brian has been working with Bill Duke (ODFW) as well as the State Lands Department on the permits that will be needed for this project. Brian is working with GeoEngineers and Anderson Perry to take the draft plans to final design status.

Personnel Committee Update- John reported that the personnel committee had a meeting to review Tara’s probationary period and have made recommendation to the board to make her a permanent employee. Ralph motioned in favor of this recommendation and Vern seconded it and the vote to make Tara a permanent employee passed unanimously.

Vehicle Purchase: Steven reported to the board that the purchase of a 2014 Nissan Frontier had been made and the vehicle was outside if any board members would like to look at it. Also Steven asked the board if it would be possible to get a gas credit card or just a regular credit card as the staff is often put in the situation to put hundreds if not thousands of dollars on personal cards to get reimbursed by WWBWC, but that is not always convenient. Vern motioned that the staff be allowed to get a credit card for these types of purchases and Malcolm seconded it and the vote was passed unanimously for the acquisition of a credit card. Staff will create a draft credit card policy.

WWBWC website update- Steve reported that the council is developing a new website and that board members will now be able to log in with a password and access information such as the financial reports and other items that may be for board members only.

Announcements:
Brian announced that DEQ will be doing a pesticide and toxic waste disposal in late July if anyone is interested.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2014, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St,