Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council  
June 16, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

Present:  

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

Guests: Chris Marks, Clive Kaiser, Greg Nelson, Cody Grant, Molly Reid and John Brough.

Absent:  
Council Members: Stuart Durfee (excused), Ed Chesnut (excused), Clark Lampson(excused), and Hulette Johnson.

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

The May 19, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Hydrosphere Project- Clive Kaiser gave a presentation on the Hydrosphere Center that he is spearheading to bring to Milton-Freewater. M-F is considered a low income/low access area and as such would be eligible for more funding for this project. The main idea behind this center is to provide information and learning platforms in regards to water, to include history of water use in Milton-Freewater, an environmental center, and a science and discovery center all of which will be centered around water. Other ideas for the center are a water rehab center, water art, wedding facility, food court and conference center. A possible site for this center would be the Luisi property on the Highway. Clive is working on securing the initial exploration monies at this time.

Flow Study-Brian reported that the initial phase of Columbia River exchange pipe and pump water to the GFID study was done by IRZ out of Hermiston and now they will okk at connecting in Hudson Bay. The scope of works, budgets, and requests for proposals on other aspects of this bi-state study are also being worked on. This is a strategic plan that has been developed to improve Walla Walla River stream flows. $220K has been allocated to use for assessment, water modeling, project management, Columbia River exchange design and legal analysis of bypass flow protection options. The steering committee has been working on prioritizing the stream flow improvement actions for the engineering analysis. The overall timeline for the study has it being done by end of June, 2015.
Nursery Bridge Fish Passage Project Update: BPA being the primary funder of this project will be leading the ESA permitting. $1 million has been secured for an emergency fish passage and riverbed stabilization project to be installed this summer, pending permitting. 30% designs have been completed, however permitting discussions have led to modification of the design to a smaller emergency fish passage project this year, then a more comprehensive project to be designed and constructed next summer. The scaled down version of this project will be a roughened riffle as an emergency fix. Teresa wanted to make sure this would not be a temp fix that would be deconstructed next summer for the permanent project. Brian assured her that the work that will take place will just be added to next year. A draft Memo of Understanding has been modified to a Declaration of Cooperation to increase the chance of Federal agency signatures regarding this cooperative effort and ongoing maintenance. The BPA funds not used for this project this year will roll over to be used next year for phase two. This project will take place in September if all goes as planned.

Nursery Bridge Levee Repair - Work can’t start in the river until 7/1/14 but the digging of the side channels where water will be diverted will begin prior to this date. Anyone interested in helping with the fish salvage temporarily scheduled for 7/2/14, please get a hold of Brian.

Shallow Aquifer Recharge update and river flow report: Steven gave a presentation on the recharge projects and river flow. We had five operational sites for the Oregon 2014 recharge season, they were the Johnson, Anspach, Trumbull, NW Umapine, and the Barrett. They had a combined recharge rate of 50.76 Acre-feet/day as compared to 34.63 Acre-feet/day in 2013. There were two sites up and running on the Washington side, the Locher and Still sites. These two sites had a recharge rate of 54.7 Acre-feet/day this season as compared to 35 Acre-feet/day in 2013. The river flow update shows that all diversions are down to minimum bypass values already. This is 2-3 weeks early.

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:
Hydromania summer science camp starts tomorrow.

The new WWBWC website will hopefully be done this July.

We are having a Chamber of Commerce open house at the office on June 26, from 4:30-6 p.m.

John announced that this is the WWBWC’s 20 year anniversary.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2014, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St,