Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Annual Meeting
January 19, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Staff: Brian Wolcott, Graham Banks, Steve Patten, Troy Baker, Wendy Harris, Amber Larsen and Chris Sheets.

Guests: Jon Brough and Valley Herald reporter

Absent:
Council Members: Kat Brigham (excused), Stuart Durfee (excused), Ed Chesnut, Ray Williams (excused), Teresa Kilmer, Hulette Johns

Staff: Tara Patten (excused), Mike Lash

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

The November and December, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

Annual Meeting and housekeeping items: The terms for John Zerba, Ed Chesnut, Clark Lampson and Ray Williams have expired. Each of these individuals has expressed their interest in continuing to serve as board members. No new applications were submitted for these board positions and nominations were opened to the floor. Larry nominated the same four individuals to continue their positions on the board and Ralph seconded. With a unanimous vote it was determined that John, Ed, Clark and Ray would retain their positions as board members. A vote for officers determined that John, Vern and Ed would retain their positions as Chair, Vice-Chair and Sec/Treas respectively. It was announced that if anyone would like to change or join a committee that now would be the time to do it. Wendy discussed with the board the possibility of changing staff to hourly wage instead of salary due to the way Quickbooks deals with the comp time that is earned. The board wants to do a little more research and then the personnel committee can meet and make a recommendation.

Shallow Aquifer Recharge Program: All 5 of the sites in Oregon which are included in the existing limited license are currently active (Johnson, Anspach, Barrett, Trumball, and NW Umapine), some more active than others due to low water levels. In Washington the Stiller Pond site is running and Steve hopes that Locher will start in March. New sites that are in development are Chuckhole, Fruitvale, Mud Creek, and Locust Rd. RFP’s have been sent to several engineers for bids with one plan being submitted so far. In Washington, the Mud Creek local water plan was passed early January and for the Last Chance Rd. site, we are working through SEPA and finalizing designs. Hopefully both will be built and operating before May.

Bi State Walla Walla Streamflow Improvement Study: Brian gave an update on the steering committee’s progress. Several study tasks are now being worked on. A water storage subcommittee and a Columbia River Exchange subcommittee are both being set up to provide guidance for those studies.
Smith Passage Phase 2 Project Design Update: Brian reported that the conceptual design has been drawn up and that he is starting to line up funds to do the project. He will give a more detailed update in February. He would like this project to get done this summer.

Announcements:

As part of his public outreach part of his grant with OWEB, Graham is planning a community projects tour of many of the projects that WWBWC has spearheaded. He wanted input from the board on dates, and projects that should be included. Once it is finalized he will put an announcement on our website and in the local paper.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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