Present:

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

Guests: Jon Brough (HBDIC), Chris Marks (CTUIR), Alan Bailey (Valley Herald), Bob Waldher (Umatilla County) Yvonne Roberts (Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson & Roberts, LLC), Dave Haire (CTUIR) and Bob Lewis

Absent:
Council Members: Malcolm Millar, Kat Brigham (excused), Steve Irving

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

The June 15th, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as submitted, but Brian wanted to clarify that the number of c.f.s he reported last month as coming out of the river at the Little Walla Walla Diversion should have been around 60 c.f.s rather than 75 c.f.s.

2014 Fiscal Audit Report: Yvonne Roberts of the CPA firm Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson & Roberts, LLC out of La Grande gave a report of the audit she and her associates performed for the 2014 WWBWC year as required by BPA. They spent two days in the WWBWC office reviewing our controls and procedures as well as doing compliance requirement checks for the funding sources. She went over the journal entries that were made, which she explained most of these are made every year. She reported that the opinion they issued for WWBWC was a modified opinion which is the best an organization can receive. They were very impressed with the controls that have been put in place and were pleasantly surprised considering that this was the first ever audit for our organization.

Summer Projects overview:
- Little Walla Walla Diversion Flow Telemetry-Troy reported that he will be installing a tower and telemetry equipment. He will be using the stilling well that is currently there and the state no longer uses.
- Mud Creek Recharge-This project is located out just East of Triangle Station. We will be building a pond to act as a recharge basin. Draft designs were just received and should go to construction in the next few months.
- Chuckhole Recharge-Located on the South side of Chuckhole Lane against the hillside. The existing low depression that will be excavated into two basins, one to catch sediment and one to do recharge. The draft designs on this project were also just received and it should go to bid and construction shortly after approval by landowner. Because of the water users, this project will have to be done around the landowner’s water needs.
- Fruitvale Recharge-This is located by the old Fruitvale School. We will be installing an infiltration gallery. Plans have been received and reviewed by the landowner and construction should begin in late summer or early fall after harvest.
- Washington side Recharge-2 sites, the Last Chance Rd site actually was just finished at the end of June and will begin running in December if we can find Washington dollars to run it, and the WA Mud Creek off of McDonald Rd, which will have an infiltration gallery and also we will be doing field flooding.
• **Anspach Recharge Expansion**- This site is just off of Winesap Rd. on the east side. This site has performed very well with the only problem being getting enough water delivered to the site, so we will be expanding the pipe that diverts from Hudson Bay and we will be adding an infiltration gallery.

• **Smith Sill Fish Passage Improvement**- This project will be modifying the structure built in 2012. We have received preliminary designs and they are being reviewed by the BPA interagency team. Brian will be working on the permitting process once the project is okayed by all involved, with construction occurring hopefully in September.

• **White Ditch Piping Phase 1 Section 2**- This will be the next approx. 800’. This wasn’t originally in the budget for this year, but due to some changes of other projects with some money left to go towards another project and this being a project that already has Environmental Compliance, it was decided to go ahead and get this section done with this round of funding.

• **Nursery Bridge Fish Passage & Habitat Assessment Channel Survey and Eastside Fish-way Diversion & Habitat Site Survey**- This is a topographical survey that we are having Anderson Perry’s team do from the Smith Sill vicinity all the way downstream to the top of the concrete berm that drops off immediately downstream of Nursery bridge.

• **River Seepage Runs**- The crew will be performing seepage runs in the next couple weeks on the Walla Walla River, Touchet River and Mill Creek and we will repeat it in September.

• **Columbia River Pump Exchange Study**- We have hired IRZ to do a cost analysis and relooking at the project the Corps and the Tribes evaluated several years ago. This project is a bit more comprehensive as it incorporates a reservoir and also seeing if we can tie in the Lowden ditches.

• **Joe West Bridge Reach Habitat Design**- Brian has been working on a request for a proposal to go out to engineering firms for the Joe West Bridge Reach. He is hoping to have some solutions to the bank stability issues from the firm that is hired along with some habitat improvements.

• **Eastside Aquifer Storage & Recovery**- The end of June we drilled 4 wells, one off of Miller Rd., one off of Grant Rd., and two off of Eastside Rd.

• **Integrated Surface Water Groundwater Model**- Troy has been working on getting the scenario reports finalized and these should be done in the next few weeks.

**Walla Walla Basin Tour for Congressional staff**: Brian got a call from Gary James of the tribal fisheries program last week to ask him if he could help out with a congressional staff tour he was hosting. There were representatives from Ron Wyden, Greg Walden, Kathy McMorris-Rogers and Dan Newhouse’s offices. Brian helped Gary describe the problems and challenges we have been facing at the Nursery Bridge Site and the levee issues that have been worked on.

**STELLAR Hydromania Summer Science Camp**: Graham presented a slide show and a run down of his itinerary from his annual science camp. They were quite busy and a good time was had by all the campers and they did learn some things during the summer camp.

**Announcements**:

There will be a Walla Walla Streamflow Study meeting with new OCR Director on 7/22.

Brian reported on the forest fire that had just started in the Mill Creek area.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting**: August 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St,