Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting  
July 18, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Staff: Brian Wolcott, Wendy Harris, Steve Patten, Chris Sheets, and Graham Banks

Guests: Jon Brough, Brian Mahoney, Wyatt Rolfe, Jim Mathew, Kevin Lindsey, Carl Christianson, Eric Holverson and Yvonne Roberts.

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

June 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes – John asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by a unanimous vote.

WWBWC 2015 Fiscal Audit overview– John introduced Yvonne Roberts from Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson & Roverts LLC, the CPA firm that conducted our 2015 audit. Yvonne went over the conclusions and financial statements from the result of the audit. They are pleased to let the council know that they had no derogatory findings and that our financial standings were all positive. Board members may log into the “Board Room” on our website for a full copy of The WWBWC audit report.

Nursery Bridge area fish passage and habitat design work – We received two bid proposals for doing the design work for phase 2 for fish passage at Nursery Bridge and the larger habitat evaluation taking things out to a 30% design on potential habitat options from the Smith sill down to Tum-A-Lum Bridge. The proposal review team, which is being led by Eric Holverson and Mike Lambert from the tribal habitat program, included Brian Wolcott & ODFW. Natural Systems Design was the firm that was chosen. They have quite a bit of experience with larger river systems that are constrained by levees or have concrete structures that need to be contended with to make sure there won’t be flooding issues. Eric said that they are working on putting together the contract with this firm at this time. He said they are still negotiating with the firm on the price a little. Eric said they are a bit high on some areas that may be able to be handled in house so they are negotiating those types of issues right now.

Bi-State Streamflow Enhancement Study– Brian gave a presentation on some of the work that has been done by the committee. He showed the list of reservoir sites that had previously been studied by the Corps of Engineers about ten years back. The committee has many projects in mind to enhance river streamflow, but it is the consensus that a large anchor project such as a reservoir or pumping from the Columbia is needed to make the difference we are trying to reach of consistent 100 cfs during summertime flows and 150 in the off season. Brian showed a list of irrigation efficiency projects that have been done in the past 10 years and a list of planned projects. One of the major efficiency projects that is being conducted is Walla Walla City and their commitment of fixing leaking pipes in their infrastructure which are losing a great amount of water. Brian lists this under Oregon because they do run partially on an Oregon water right. Steve has been working on a possible aquifer storage and recovery analysis for the Eastside area and is looking at a possible Touchet/Lowden area as well. We have Tom McDonald from a law firm in Seattle area that has been working on how to protect the stream flows once the water is in stream. Steve gave an update on the ASR studies he has been working on. They have been conducting several pumping tests with a final report on the results being done in a month.
**Bureau of Reclamation funding** - We recently got notice that the proposal Brian and Wendy submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation is going to be funded. This was a proposal for funds to help with the Bi-State Water Planning process. We want to use the funds to compile a Water Management Plan that we can take to Oregon, Washington and Washington D.C. for funding. We are one of 11 basins nationally that was chosen to receive these funds. It is a $100k grant.

**Local fish count at Nursery Bridge** - There hasn’t been any additional adult Chinook at this point and we are still at about 236 Spring Chinook Salmon, 559 Steelhead adults have been counted.

**STELLAR Hydromania Science Camp** - Graham gave a presentation on this year’s summer science camp. This was sponsored by Gray Family Foundation, BPA, Milton-Freewater School District and WWBWC. There were 27 campers. Graham provided a slide show of the events of each day.

**Announcements**
- OWRD is planning on having a follow up meeting to the groundwater presentation they did a couple of months ago. They want to discuss solutions. The meeting will be conducted in August and a date will be announced soon in an e-mail.
- Bi State Streamflow Study’s next meeting is July 21, from 9-12 at the WW Water Center.
- Washington state is having a groundwater contamination meeting, Wednesday evening at 6:30 at Walla Walla County Health Department.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting: August 15, 2016, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St.**