Present:
Council Members: Clark Lampson, Joelle Pomraning, Malcolm Millar, Vern Rodighiero, Ralph Perkins, Larry Widner, John Zerba, and Molly Reid

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

Guests: Jon Brough, David Haire, John Fazio and Chris Marks.

(0:00-0:09) Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John Zerba

(32:31-32:35) July, 2016 Meeting Minutes – John suspended the vote to approve minutes as we did not have a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. (32:32-32:42) Now that a quorum is in attendance the minutes from the July meeting were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

OWEB Requirements for Watershed Council By-Laws: The By-Laws discussion was also suspended until we have a quorum. (32:43-41:19) OWEB has made some requests to make additions to our By-Laws and a policy be made in regards to representation of different interests. Once these changes are made, it should make the OWEB funding process easier in the future. Larry moved to accept the changes, Ralph seconded, motion passed unanimously. A motion was put in place to accept the policy in regards to maintain a geographic and community diversity of representation among its Board members in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed pursuant to ORS 541.910(2). Malcolm made motion to approve this policy, Ralph seconded and motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

(0:10-32:30) Bi-State Streamflow Enhancement Study- Brian reported back on the steering committee meeting that took place at the end of July. Work was done on possible reservoir sites and the options for a Columbia River exchange. In regards to the possible reservoir sites, a table was created to score different sites in the basin based on several different factors such as: capacity, location, target area benefits, ESA concerns, how difficult to fill, how hard to get water back to farms, costs, fault risk, landowner displacement, water temperature and quality and opportunity for multiple uses. They looked at the 21 sites that were previously looked at by the Corps of Engineering as the possible sites. The highest scoring sites were the 2 Pine Ck. Sites and the Dry Ck. Locations. Brian said that Gary James suggested that any sites with a score of 8 or more and with large capacity be looked at in more detail. Brian then brought up the possibility of conflict with the city and the Water Control District should a reservoir be constructed upriver and it being a possible liability in the event of a dam failure and water overwhelming the current levee system. The committee wants to reduce the list down to around 5 to 10 of the best scoring sites. They then are going to look at whether the capacity and the ability to fill to capacity is even a realistic goal as they are, at this point, going off the numbers given to them by the Corps. Mike Ladd from OWRD has sent over water availability numbers that aren’t nearly as big as what the Corps had predicted. Brian also discussed the possibilities of a pipeline from the Columbia River to supplement water needs in the area and the challenges it brings. The water savings to the river were discussed along with the O. & M. to take on such a project and who would be responsible for those costs. It was discussed how the savings to the river could be calculated and justified. Vern brought up the water rights of senior water right holders and how that would be handled. The water rights would not be lost, but that either of these projects could be a supplement water source to these water right holders. (59:10-1:24.00) At the last meeting the decision making and advisory authority came into question. The discussion was whether the bi-state steering committee was to be the lead for the flow study and provide direction back to the Walla Walla Water Management Partnership that has secured the funding or if they were to make final decisions i.e. on which projects were to be done, contractor hiring, etc.
Aquifer Storage and Recovery investigation update- Steven reported that the data from the Eastside wells that are being monitored has been collected and is currently being analyzed and he will be coming out with a report on the results this fall. There are additional wells that he hopes to analyze this winter to gather some additional information. The basic premise of this project is to find out if the shallow gravel aquifer in this area is capable of storing water during the winter to pump back out to use in low flow situations. Steven explained the Washington ASR study that is funded by the OCR is an assessment study which will be looking at using ASR for Ag purposes at reasonable costs. He also discussed areas of possible other ASR projects.

OWRD Feasibility Study Funding- We will have an opportunity in October to apply for funding to investigate water projects such as ASR and/or funds to help in assessing a reservoir site. Brian encouraged the Board to come forward with any ideas they may have.

Bureau of Reclamation- We were expecting to be further in the contract progression, but the BOR is a bit behind getting the contracts out. Hopefully he will have a draft contract for the Board to view at next meeting.

Joe West Bridge Reach Habitat Project- BPA has agreed to be the lead in the ESA permitting of this project and Brian will be meeting with the BPA environmental staff and the USFW staff up at the project on Wednesday. The additional survey work has been completed and once the ESA has been done, the engineers will finalize the plans.

Announcements
-The next Bi-State Flow Study meeting will be October 11 at the WW Water Center, from 9:00 – 12:00.
-there is an OWRD meeting Thursday at the Pendleton Convention Center at 1:30.
-OWRD Milton-Freewater area groundwater meeting is being planned, date has yet to be determined. (an addition to the minutes: a date has recently been set for this meeting, September 29th at 6:30 PM, and September 30th at 9:00 AM.)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 19, 2016, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St.

The times in the brackets next to each topic refer to the location of that topic in the meeting recording. There are copies of the recordings located in the “Board Room” on the WWBWC website.