Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting  
November 21, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

Present:


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

Guests: Jon Brough, David Haire, Brian Mahoney, and Ted Carpenter

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

October 2016 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved as submitted.

(0:46-25:25) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study - Brian gave an update: The aquifer recharge component is wrapping up two of the studies-Eastside study and the basalt ASR study over the next month. The storage project work group met and discussed the Pine Creek scope of work looking at 4 different reservoir size options that would be located in the Pine Creek drainage using water from both Pine Ck. and the Walla Walla River. The struggle being what would be the actual water availability since the irrigation demand is a known factor. Another component of the Bi-State Study is what would the cost be for Gardena Farms Irrigation District to leave a portion of their water in river at the Burlingame diversion and pump that water out down by Touchet, and pull it out of the river down there and bring it up onto Gardena hill-this is another task we are seeing if we can find a funding source for to evaluate what the costs would be for pumps and pipes and running costs on an annual basis. We will also be looking at the best use of the water in the summer if there is a pipeline. There is still money for legal work to protect flows. There is ongoing work to set up conversations between OR and WA Attorney Generals’ offices. Steven let everyone know that there was going to be an Aquifer study group meeting at the office on Nov. 30th at 9 am.

(25:26-26:55) Groundwater Management options meeting report -OWRD was here again on Oct. 24th and 25th. Over 200 local people attended the meetings to learn more about what the issue is and what the state is planning to do about it. There is a page on the OWRD website devoted to the WW Basin and it includes Power Point presentations they previously presented at these meeting and they also have a 2 page groundwater summary. The OWRD has seen an average 2-5 foot decline per year in the aquifer and it is a serious enough issue that they want to make sure they can protect peoples’ water rights. Bottom line is OWRD has said in order to keep the problem from getting worse they will not issue any further well drilling permits (other than domestic). The next meeting with OWRD will be Dec. 13th.

(18:10-18:42) Bi-State Streamflow Enhancement Study update - Steven reported that the storage committee group met last week and made a decision to focus on the Pine Creek locations (upper and lower) and are contracting with a consultant to start the feasibility study and Brian is putting together a scope of work that will go out for review in the next week or two and then out to contractors for bid.
(27:00-31:24) Managed Aquifer Recharge Program Update- Steven reported that the limited license for the new aquifer recharge projects has been approved. Steven has been working with the City of Milton-Freewater on looking at using their existing basalt wells for storage and the costs associated with a project like this. A rough estimate that he just received for the capital building of this project is $1 million, that is if a new well has to be drilled because existing wells are not able to be retrofitted for the water intake.

(31:34-32:46) White Ditch- The current phase of White Ditch piping has been completed. It was about 3300’.

(32:53-34:50) River Cleanup Report- Graham organized a river cleanup last month, had about 15 people show up. Took two truckloads and a trailer of garbage from the river banks to the dump before it could be swept in stream by a rising river this winter.

(34:54-36:00) Personnel Committee Report- Due to some federal changes at least one of the employees status will change from salary to hourly. There will be some changes that need to happen to personnel policy.

Announcements
-OWRD Rules Advisory Committee meeting is December 12th in the afternoon from 1:30-5pm and the OWRD Milton-Freewater area groundwater meeting will be December 13th at 9am.

-David Close is no longer on the CTUIR board so the tribes are working on getting a replacement representative for the WWBWC board.

With holidays being so close to the next meeting date the board voted to do an e-mail council meeting in December, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 20, 2017, 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.