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

(0:00-1:18) November 2016 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved as submitted. Brian gave brief summary of the December “meeting by e-mail” in which it was confirmed that the 4 board members whose terms were ending wanted to continue their board positions. Those members were Bob, Larry, Malcolm and Ralph and all were still wanting to continue their positions if so elected. An e-mail election was then sent out and all 8 members that responded voted to reelect the four.

(1:19-3:09) Board Officer Elections- John, Vern and Ed were all nominated to continue to hold their respective positions as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, if they so agreed. The vote was unanimous in favor of keeping them at their offices.

(3:10-10:45) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study- There has been a technical team working on the various projects looking at different improvements they may provide to benefit the health of the river. The team has basically came up with 4 draft scenarios: Columbia River Exchange, Large Reservoir, Small Reservoir and a Combination of the CRE and Large Reservoir. The team is also looking at some smaller projects to include shallow aquifer recharge on an expanded scale from what we are doing currently, aquifer storage and recovery and irrigation efficiency. The technical team meets again tomorrow and the whole steering committee meets again at the beginning of the month. Brian will e-mail out the time and date.

(10:46-22:37) Bureau of Reclamation-funded Walla Walla Bi-State Water Management Planning: We are getting the statement of work set up and should have the final flow study done where good information has been gathered so then we can start working on getting the water development plan based on that flow study. The committee anticipates needing help with facilitation and plan writing and it makes sense that we would continue using the same companies that have been helping us with the flow study and also with the water modeling, as we will need to run the reservoir scenario through the model. With all this being said, the committee feels that it only makes sense to use these same companies and so we are working on putting together a sole source justification for the BOR so we don’t have to go out for bid on this work. Part of the justification process is getting the approval of our Board of Director’s to approve of the sole source justification. Ralph motioned that Brian be allowed to continue the process of the sole source justification Malcolm seconded and the board voted unanimously in favor. During the following week, WWBWC staff and Bureau staff discussed this sole source justification. The Bureau agreed that we could do this but it would lead to more paperwork for both WWBWC staff and the Bureau staff. With that in mind, WWBWC staff have decided to put the contracted services contract out for competitive bid.
(22:45-42:48) Groundwater Rules Advisory Committee December 12th meeting update- Brian gave update about this group that will be coming up with the new rules regarding the basalt aquifer management and how the state manages our aquifer in this basin.

(42:49-45:47) Nursery Bridge are Phase 2 Fish Passage and Habitat Design Work has begun- Brian reported that the Nursery Bridge Phase 2 and Phase 3 Fish passage and habitat design work has begun. The engineer was selected and will be Natural Systems Design. Construction will not likely begin this summer but in the summer of 2018.

(45:48-49:43) Rivers and flood reduction methods- Steven showed a short video on rivers and how they work in regards to flooding and reducing the chances of flooding.

(50:33-1:00:15) STELLAR grant proposal for Liedall Land Lab improvements at Ferndale School- Graham gave a presentation on a proposal for a grant he would like to apply for through the Milton-Freewater Area Foundation for $1,142. This grant would be used in conjunction with monies from OWEB and possibly the school district to restore the Liedall Land Lab. The lab has not been used as much in the last couple of years as it was for science club, which is not being held due to the redistricting that happened. Once Ferndale goes back to being a 4th and 5th grade school, Graham wants to get science club going again and needs the land lab to be ready. It was a unanimous vote to let Graham apply for this grant.

Announcements
-OWRD Rules Advisory Committee meeting date to be announced.
-Milton-Freewater area groundwater management meeting date to be announced.
-Blue Mountain Region trails, bike routes, sidewalks workshop, Milton-Freewater on Feb. 1st, from 5:30-7:30 at the Community Building.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 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.