Meeting Minutes

Present:


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

Guests: Jon Brough, Chris Marks, and David Haire

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vern Rodighiero

(0:00-5:02) January 2017 minutes – The minutes were approved as submitted, however, Brian wanted to let board members know that even though they voted to approve a sole source contractor for the BOR project, that the representatives from the BOR that visited during the past month, warned of the excessive paperwork that goes into using a sole source contractor and highly recommended that all work go out for bid and so Brian has decided that going to bid would be a better way to go.

(5:03-28:50) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study Update – Brian reported that they had a steering committee meeting a couple of weeks ago. There were 20-25 people in attendance and half a dozen or so joined via video conference. At the meeting they discussed what the technical work group went over at their meeting earlier that month. The technical work group looked at the viability of the major project options. There was concern that the availability of water for a reservoir may be limited by the new Oregon state restrictions. The exchange project looks more feasible than the reservoir option when it comes to the water availability, but it’s major challenge is the costs of pumping. A combination of the two projects may be an answer.

(28:51-35:36) Basalt Groundwater Management - The Water Resource Department has put together a rules advisory committee to quickly put together and spell out the rule changes regarding basalt wells. Proposed changes are no new agricultural wells to be drilled and all existing wells will now need to have flow meters.

(35:37-1:02:59) Groundwater Management Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Feasibility Study: Steve gave a presentation. We have had interest from all over the basin to make these projects happen. Brian and Steve have decided that rather than trying to do 15 different feasibility studies, can the Watershed Council lead a kind of management wide feasibility study to look at what are existing groundwater conditions, groundwater quality, surface water quality, compatibility groundwater/surface water and then look at water treatment options.

(1:03:10-1:23:45) – Walla Walla Basin Climate Change Model Presentation- Steven gave a modified presentation of the presentation he gave to the steering committee at their last meeting. This model is looking at what are the hydrologic conditions going to look like in approximately 50 years from now.

(1:24:00-1:28:55) Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Cache Hollow/South Fork Walla Walla River Strategic Implementation Area- For the past few years the Dept. of Agriculture has been working on
implementing their agriculture and water quality program and they target different creeks, rivers or basins around Oregon. This year they have picked two drainages in the Walla Walla Basin to target for implementation areas. There is targeted funding that can be used for water management changes to improve water quality. They have chosen Cache Hollow and the South Fork Walla Walla River.

(1:28:56-1:32:06) **Announcements**- Graham is planning a projects tour again this year, probably mid-April. It will be done during the weekdays this year, as last year most people cancelled when he did it on the weekend.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting: March 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.