Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
March 20, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present:


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

Guests: Jon Brough, Kevin Lindsey, and David Haire

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

(0:00-0:55) Review of minutes from February meeting – The minutes were approved as submitted.

(0:56-2:36)-Project Committee Meeting– John reported that the committee met prior to the start of this meeting. They reviewed a Shallow Aquifer Recharge project that was submitted to OWEB last fall that Steven was told may get only partially funded so he would like to submit the project to another funding agency to make sure he has enough money to complete the projects. The board voted to allow Steven to apply for the additional funds by unanimous vote.

(2:37-29:57) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study Update – Brian went over the type of analysis and process that they are trying to use to rate the projects and the worksheets that they are using to score each individual project, i.e. cost vs. benefit and negatives. More detail on the individual proposed projects and the scoring procedure is available on the WWBWC website for anyone that wants to look them over. Another project pairing meeting will be in a couple of weeks. Meetings for the Steering Committee and information on the individual technical work groups are all located on the WWBWC website under the “NEW ITEMS” heading at the bottom of the home page, just click on the Walla Walla Basin Integrated Flow Enhancement Study.

(29:58-41:29) Basalt Groundwater Management– The Rules Advisory Committee has come up with a set of rules regarding the management of the basalt aquifer and there is going to be a meeting on March 22nd at 5:00 p.m. The first two things they want to do right away is stop any new Ag uses of the basalt and shallow aquifers. They have not allowed the drilling of any new shallow aquifer wells for several years now, of course there are some exemptions such as domestic use and stock water. The other rule they are intent on implementing is making sure all basalt wells are equipped with a flow meter. They are giving well owners enough time that they may seek funding to help alleviate the expense of these meters. A 1/1/2019 deadline has been set. Brian has a complete copy of the proposed rules for anyone that would want to look at them or make a copy for their own.

(41:30-50:10) WWBWC Annual Work Plan Review: This is a requirement for our council capacity grant from OWEB. We need to have this done at least every 2 years. Brian went over what is included in the work plan. He asked for comments from the board if they want anything changed and if not, if they could approve it. No comments were made and Malcolm moved the board approve the plan as submitted by Brian, Ralph seconded and it was approved unanimously by the board.
(50:20-56:02) Joe West Reach Habitat Project Update- Brian reported that he has the final designs now for this expensive project that is a combination of habitat improvements for fish and wildlife and also property protection for the 6 landowners. This project is estimated to cost about $700k. Brian had anticipated using BPA funds, but BPA after going up and looking at the site of the proposed project is not willing to fund it so Brian is looking for alternative funding sources.

Announcements- Basalt Groundwater Rules Hearing at the M-F Community Building on March 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 5 p.m.

- Graham will be sponsoring a volunteer day prior to the week of April 24\textsuperscript{th}

- Graham will also be doing another project tour tentatively scheduled for April 24\textsuperscript{th}, but that could change.

- Wendy will be scheduling a project committee meeting to go over the proposed BPA project for the upcoming funding cycle, so that members may help prioritize the projects.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 17, 2017, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5\textsuperscript{th} 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.