Present:


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

Guests: Jon Brough, David Haire, Sara Harris, Russell Marlow, Eric Hoverson, and Chris Marks

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

(56:01-56:10) Review of minutes from February meeting – The minutes were approved as submitted.

(56:11-1:46:57) Project Committee Meeting - The project committee met prior to this meeting to go over list of BPA projects that we have compiled and asked a group of interagency experts to review along with the council’s own project committee. Everyone was asked to rate each project on various aspects so that we could then compile the results to form a list of viable projects to submit to BPA. The results were discussed at the project committee meeting. Steven also presented on an OWEB proposal for Couse Creek assessment. Ralph reported that the committee approved the list to be presented to the board for the BPA proposal and the OWEB proposal. The BPA projects are a compilation of fish passage and water management projects similar to the projects we have completed and have had funded through BPA since 2004. Some ditch piping, irrigation efficiency, ground water recharge, water management, measuring and telemetry projects. There were several agencies that looked over the list of projects and ranked them in order of what they thought were the best projects. The only fish passage project that everyone agreed that WWBWC should take the lead on was the entrance to Couse Creek where at certain flows, the steelhead in particular, have problems with passage. Kat and Chris Marks raised concerns that the tribes would like to see more data showing results of recharge projects from the past so that they know that they are supporting projects worth funding. Steven added to the discussion that all of the proposed recharge sites have been modeled to show anticipated results. Ray moved to approve the BPA and OWEB proposals as recommended by the project committee with Ralph seconding. The vote was an 8 to 1 approval with Kat being the disapproval vote.

(1:46:58-1:56:04) Nursery Bridge Fish Passage Phase 2 Update – Brian reported that they had a productive meeting with some of the local stakeholders of the Nursery bridge area. Eric Hoverson from the fish habitat program convened a meeting and we had a representative from the Corps of Engineers, Vern Rodighiero from the M-F Water Control District, Mike Richards from the tribal River Ops all attending. Mike, who operates the fish ladder at Nursery Bridge reported that he has already had to dig a channel to get water over the fish ladder so that it can operate at lower flows. The goal of this phase 2 fish passage project is to not only improve fish passage conditions downstream of Nursery Bridge, but to get fish up to and through the fish ladders, but to also improve fish passage issues at the Eastside Diversion. The Corps of Engineers also let the group know that they are moving forward with the gabion protection project. Tum-A-Lum Bridge replacement project is moving forward.

(1:56:05-2:00:23) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study Update- Brian reported that there is now a contract in place with CH2M Hill Engineering to investigate the portions of Pine Creek in regards to water
availability. Brian hopes to have more information when the group meets for the project pairing meeting on the 28th of April. Chris Marks has also set a project planning meeting to be held April 20th.

(2:00:24-2:02:27) WWBWC Self Evaluation: This is a requirement for our council capacity grant from OWEB. We need to have this done at least every 2 years. This gives our board a chance to weigh in on the performance and visions for the watershed council. Brian will be sending out the survey to board members before the next meeting so that we can discuss the results at the May meeting.

(2:02:28-2:03:39) Volunteer Day Report- Graham reported that last weekend he called for volunteers to help transplant plants from the Ferndale land lab to the Lampson site. He had 12 volunteers attend and they got between 300-400 plants transplanted, so it was a very productive day.

Announcements- Annual project tour will be Friday from 9am-3pm starting at the library. There are spots left if anyone is interested and he also has flyers advertising the tour, if anyone would be able to help distribute them.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 15, 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.