Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
May 15, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present:


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

Guests: Jon Brough, Anton Chiono, Greg Silbernagel, Chris Marks, Kevin Lindsey, Eric Hoverson and David Haire.

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

(00-1:00) Review of minutes from April meeting – The minutes were approved with one correction. The “approved minutes” in the April minutes, needs to be changed to reflect the correct month. It says February and it should have been March minutes were approved as submitted.

(1:00-5:00) OWEB Project Proposals funded – We submitted two proposals in October. Steven submitted the managed aquifer recharge program grant for $346k and Graham sent in the STELLAR outreach grant for about $23k and both were approved for funding. In addition to the two OWEB grants, Brian reported that he has unofficially been told that OWRD approved our feasibility study for the Milton-Freewater aquifer storage and recovery investigation. Concerns over what Washington is doing to help with the flow issues were raised and discussed.

(5:11-38:22) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study Update – Brian gave a slide presentation. Engineering team for CH2M Hill are working on a reservoir study and the committee had the engineers provide some information to the technical work group in regards to the Pine Creek location and water availability to said locations. The question they are trying to answer is if they can reduce that Winter and Spring irrigation demand can we maximize how much can go out to a reservoir and then have that water later to offset the irrigation community’s water needs and leave more water in stream for fish.

(38:30-42:24) Bureau of Reclamation Water Development Planning – The BOR is funding the next stage of our Bi-State Flow Enhancement Study which is taking the flow study information and using it as an assessment to develop a water management plan for the valley. We have just completed a Scope of Work and a Request for Proposal for a contractor to take on the facilitation and planning work to have our Bi State Steering committee formalized into a water management oversight group which is a requirement for any type of large organization funding such as the BOR.

(42:30-55:32) Hyline Ditch Piping Conserved Water Application: The Hyline conservation plan was resubmitted and John got comments back but has not yet had a chance to review the comments. This project was about 7 miles of piping and we were hoping to see 7-11 c.f.s. of conserved water left in stream and protected. The initial submission by John was for 9 c.f.s. and they came back with 2 c.f.s. and at very limited times of the year that it would be protected. There is now a new version of the conserved water application looking at about 3 ½ c.f.s. to be protected in stream from October through July and Hudson Bay would be able to hold onto about 1 c.f.s.
Molly Reid gave an update from the OWRD meeting she attended earlier in the month. She went into more detail on the restrictions for wells and the rules that will be enforced.

WWBWC Self Evaluation for OWEB Council Capacity Reporting- Brian will be sending out a link to an online survey to each of the board members prior to the next council meeting that he will compile the answers to go over at the next meeting. If you do not want to do this survey online, please let Brian know and he will get you a paper copy to fill out.

Projects Tour Report: Graham had 27 participants this year, with about half of them being students from WWCC. Graham showed some pictures from the day.

Snowpack update- We are looking at about 125% of the average for the year. So Steve is optimistic for a good water year.

Announcements- The Corps is seeking comments on the Mill Creek Flood Control Project O & M and the deadline is mid-June for comments.

Return to the River will be May 20th at WWCC from 11am to 3 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 19, 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.