Present:


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

Guests: Jon Brough, Chris Marks, Eric Hoverson and David Haire.

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

(10:10) Review of minutes from June meeting – John asked if there were any additions or corrections to the previous meeting’s minutes. None were given and the minutes were approved as submitted.

(19:19) OWEB Project Proposals – Brian told the board that OWEB proposals are due in October. Graham will be discussing some of the changes to the education and outreach grants that OWEB is proposing. Brian will also be talking about the Couse Creek fish passage project proposal that he would like to submit.

(1:39) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study Update – The committee has been working on getting final numbers on the Pine Creek reservoir study from CH2M Hill, which is the firm contracted to work on this study. They are working on design costs and conveyance routing. Brian gave a presentation of the results thus far that they have come up with. Brian went over the documents they have to compare the different projects and Steve and Brian have been trying to come up with an effective way to score the projects based on several criteria. Brian also discussed the different projects that would be likely paired with each other.

(18:36) Nursery Bridge Phase 2 Fish Passage Design update - Brian reported that unfortunately he didn’t have any handouts or drawings from the engineering team, Natural Systems Design, but Brian did show a drawing of the Phase II option that was a conceptual drawing from BPA when this project was up for bid. There was a lot of discussion on how to make sure Eastside water users would still get their water without hindering fish passage. River Ops crew, the tribes, and ODFW have twice had to hire a contractor to come out and dig a channel in the river and build up push-up berm to get water over to the eastside fish ladder and all involved are trying to avoid that from needing to be done again.

(28:48) Couse Creek Confluence Fish Passage Design update: Brian’s been working with the BPA engineers putting together a Statement of Work for the contract. Brian showed a video of the areas of concern on Couse Creek, the issues being fish passage, pipe issues, and the actively eroding river and levee toe exposure.

(44:43) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Issue - this is a funding source that’s been coming to the West Coast for several years now. Pacific coastal salmon dollars for Oregon State have meant about $10-12 million dollars per year of funding that has come through NOAA fisheries. These funds are very important to the WWBWC and the basin as they have funded or helped to fund many of our projects in the past. These funds are not currently in the federal budget. Brian has drafted a letter to our congressman and wanted to get approval from the board before mailing it and possibly having it published in the newspaper. Ed moved for approval, Ralph seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.
WWBWC Self Evaluation for OWEB Council Capacity Reporting- Brian went over the results of the submitted self-evaluations that each board member was asked to fill out. This is a requirement for our OWEB council capacity grant. Board members commented that many of the questions were hard to answer because they had too many parts to them and different parts of the same questions they would want to answer differently. Brian explained that he did not write the questions but he would pass on their concerns. We held discussion on a few things that some of the board thought could be improved but overall it was a very positive review.

OWEB Outreach and Education Funding issue: Graham presented to the board the changes in OWEB’s view on watershed outreach, and science education of students. He is asking permission to draft a letter regarding his concerns and how important this program is. Graham will email the letter to the board before he sends his letter in.

Announcements- Hydromania Summer Science camp will be June 27, 28, & 29th. There are still a few spots open if anyone knows a child that would like to participate.

The next Bi-State Steering committee meeting will be Wednesday 6/28/17 from 8:30-3pm

DEQ will once again be holding a pesticide and contaminated container collection on Friday 7/21 at Schmidt and Sons.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 17, 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.