Present:


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

Guests: Jon Brough, Chris Marks, David Haire Anton Chiono.

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

(:10) Review of minutes from August 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.

(:11-13:15)-Climate Change Modeling Scenarios – Steven gave a presentation on the scenarios they have run through the model and the output of the different scenarios. The presentation is available on the WWBWC website for anyone wanting to review it.

(13:16-24:34) Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study Update – Steven gave an update from the August 3rd Steering committee meeting. At the meeting, Brian gave an update on the Pine Ck. Storage facility since there have been some updated numbers from the engineers working on the reservoir project. It has been narrowed down to two different sizes, a small reservoir that would hold 33,100 acre feet and a medium size that would hold 45,800 acre feet with costs coming in at $271 million and $310 million respectively. Water availability for the small reservoir so far looks like a 80% fill probability, or 8 out of 10 years it should fill to capacity and 70% for the medium size reservoir. Steven reported that Brian also gave an update on the two exchange options they are looking at with the large exchange being with WWRID, Hudson Bay, Gardena Farms and the Lowden area users with a construction cost of $163 million and the smaller exchange option that would just serve Gardena Farms and Lowden which has a cost of $67 million. The O & M costs associated with the exchange projects and the reservoirs are just preliminary numbers at this point with the reservoir being less, as it will be filled on gravity whereas on the exchanges the water will need to be pumped up from the Columbia. Steven wanted to wait until the numbers were more dialed in to give out costs. Anton built a great spreadsheet model to look at these various projects and then Steven took the information that came out of his spreadsheet and built a project pairing workbook that individual people can take the various projects and combine them together to compare which projects they like when results compare to cost etc. It is available on our website if anyone is interested in playing around with it to compare project pairings. Another topic discussed was regarding all of the water that comes from whatever projects that come out of this study will be built on the protected instream flows rather than the bypass flows. They also discussed the declining flows in the tributaries and the Spring Creek system and they should be considered when discussing the projects that are proposed. At the end of the meeting Guy Gregory also brought up that he would like to see monitoring continue in the basin, both groundwater and surface water. In regards to funding, $500k was allocated from the Washington operating budget for the Walla Walla Basin. It did not have a scope of work attached to it so the tribes and the partnership on the Washington side are meeting to discuss how that money can be used.

(24:35-1:00:35) Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation letter about Walla Walla River stream flow improvements- Kat was asked to comment on the letters they sent out. She explained that they sent
them out because they have a lot of concerns about instream flows and how they are measured and how are we going to protect and restore that instream flow especially with the Walla Walla hatchery coming online. The Tribes feel that they need data. They are trying to take in all of the questions and concerns they have received thus far. They have had one meeting with the Corps of Engineers where they told the Corps that they needed to step up and help them find a solution for Nursery Bridge and Mill Creek, so the Corps is working on how the Tribes can help them and they are planning a follow up meeting to determine what the next steps are. The Tribes have a meeting with BPA set up for next month and also a meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service to talk about “what did our letter mean and how we can work together to develop an overall package that brings us all together and the funding we need to protect in stream flows and keep everybody whole in this system” said Kat. Discussion ensued.

(1:00:05-1:01:35) Hudson Bay District Improvement Company Hyline Ditch Piping Conserved Water Application update: John reported that Hudson Bay had submitted an amended Water Conservation application, but they rescinded it and resubmitted the original application and it is being finalized which shows conservation of 9 c.f.s. with just over 7 of that staying in river.

(1:01:36-1:04:20) White Ditch seepage analysis update- Steven reported that with what we learned from the Hyline project we are taking a different approach to the White ditch piping project when it comes to analyzing the conserved water portion, both what is the total amount conserved and based on the funding what percentage of that goes instream vs. stays with the district. Since we have the seepage data from before and after the piping, we have good data to put into the conserved water application and then we will continue this process with the future stages of this and future piping projects.

(1:04:21-1:08:23) OSU Extension Service District Proposal for Umatilla County- Steven wanted to share that he learned of a proposal that will be brought before voters on the next ballot. Clive Kaiser gave a presentation to the city council in which the extension service is proposing to create a new service district for Umatilla County which would increase property taxes $0.33/$1000 of assessed value, which would bring in about $1.5 million dollars a year for the extension service. If you have questions, you can contact Clive Kaiser or the extension office in Hermiston.

Announcements-

Steven has accepted a position with the city of Milton-Freewater and will be leaving us in October. We have a job announcement out and want to hire as soon as possible.

Graham would like any suggestions you may have regarding directions you would like to see his programs going as it looks like he won’t be able to use funds, at least from OWEB, in the school district as much as in the past.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08p.m.

Next Meeting: September 18, 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.