Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting  
February 19, 2018  
Meeting Minutes

Present:


Guests: Kevin Lindsey and David Haire

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

(:00-:12)- Review of minutes from December 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. (The minutes were approved a bit later in the meeting as there was not a quorum, at this time in the meeting, until a member showed later)

(:13-12:00)-Upriver flooding update –Brian reported on the high water event that occurred upriver. Troy estimated around 3500 c.f.s. at Grove gauge. That meaning upriver there were some pretty drastic effects, flooding a good portion of Brian and Ginger Afdahl’s property and the bank at Joe Wet eroded to the point that it actually took out a barn this time on Susan Talbot’s property.

(12:02-19:57) Walla Walla Bi-State Stream Flow Enhancement Study and Water Planning Update – Brian and Chris Marks worked on some changes to the SOW on our grant with the BOR and contract with Aspect Consulting that they presented at the last meeting to address some of the concerns the tribes are having issues with as they raised at the last meeting. They presented these changes and they were accepted by the committee. One amendment that Brian is going to ask the BOR for is to change the ending date of the grant to add another year so that it will coincide with the funding of the Washington dollars. At the meeting they also discussed flow protection strategy to make sure water is protected once it passes over the state line. They discussed the possibility of a Bi-State compact. They discussed the need for all the entities involved to send letters to their state water resource departments asking that they get engaged and work on a flow protection solution. Brian will email out the draft of the letter he has been working on for the council to approve.

(19:58-35:52) Pesticide Stewardship Partnership 2017- Troy gave his 2017 annual presentation on the DEQ sponsored pesticide sampling program that he has been managing since 2005. The presentation can be viewed and listened to on the WWBWC website on the meetings page.

(35:55-40:59) Aquifer Recharge Workshop report- Graham, Molly and Brian put together this workshop in January and had about 70 attend. The objective of the workshop primarily to find out how we can help out with basalt well issues, but also used it as a chance to hear from some of the experts in the field who have been running these programs for many years. Another reason for the meeting was to give the public all the answers possible to what is recharge, how does it work, how much does it cost and what are the benefits and effects.
(41:19-1:22:14) Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge discussion-results, siting, seasons, funding-
After her last meeting presentation, Marie wanted to go over the last bullet points that she didn’t get a chance to
go over because of lack of time at the January meeting: The results, siting, seasons and funding:

- Is it time to update the MAR strategy plan?
- Would the tribes stop objecting if non-fish funding was found for the MAR?
- Is it possible to increase the duration of recharge?
- Is it possible to increase passive recharge?
- Where can we find future funding resources since current sources have been challenged?

The annual MAR report came out last Thursday for 2017 recharge and 5148 acre feet were diverted to 9 sites.
This report can be found on our website. After Marie went over our current MAR Strategy, she asked the council
if they felt we needed to update the plan. Even though we are seeing the groundwater levels come up in many
areas the need for recharge sites on the East side still seems to be a priority. There is also concern that all the
water being saved is just being taken out once it goes over the state line by Washington users. It was decided to
wait on the changing of the strategy plan as any sites on the east side would still fall under the current plan. Marie
would really like to be able to lengthen the recharge season wherever and whenever possible with the main focus
being on WWRID sites as those are the ones with such a short window of operation, but this all will have to be
brought up and discussed with the district. When asked by Marie, David Haire made it pretty clear that, in his
opinion, he didn’t think the tribes would be behind any winter water use, whether the funds came from non-fish
sources or not.

Brian to let him know of the $1.285 million OWRD is asking congress for to fund basin studies around the state
so that they can make water management decisions. Tom asked Brian if he could pull together some people to put
together a letter of support for OWRD funding proposal. The letter that OWRD sent for consideration by
congress for funding names Umatilla Basin, Walla Walla Sub Basin as a priority area to study. Brian did a draft
letter if the council would like him to send it. Ralph motioned to send the letter with Vern seconding and
unanimous vote in favor of sending the letter of support.

(1:34:10-1:41:10) Couse Creek Fish Passage 30% designs review- Brian presented a quick overview of the
designs from the engineers for the Couse Creek Fish passage project.

(1:41:50-1:47:50) Bull Trout Recovery Plan update- John and Brian went down to the bull trout recovery plan
meeting with USFW and ODFW, and the tribes. There was a lot of information on the trends which are for the
most part is declining. There is interest in the council working in partnership with USFW and ODFW in outreach
activities, such as education in the form of posting informative flyers, but we are not interested in the enforcement
area.

Announcements-
- NRCS EQIP funding signup deadline March 16, 2018

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 19, 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.