Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting  
June 17, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Council Members: Gary James, Ed Chesnut, Clark Lampson, Steve Irving, Arnold Coe, John Ferrise, Catherine Clifton, Malcolm Millar, Vern Rodighiero, Ralph Perkins, John Zerba and Kevin Scribner

Staff: Brian Wolcott, Wendy Harris, Marie Cobb, Graham Banks, Luke Adams and Tara Patten

Guests: Teresa Kilmer, Jim Mathew, Janna Stevens, Greg Silbernagel, John Shafer, Eric Holverson, Tessa Edelen

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

(00:00-1:18) Review Minutes of the May meeting— It was recommended that the word “all” be removed in reference to the problems at Joe West Bridge. Minutes were approved with the change as suggested.

(1:19-26:57) Walla Walla Basin Integrated Flow Enhancement Study update; including reservoir and exchange estimated costs to build and o & m costs, completing the flow study and developing a Walla Walla basin water resource management strategy- Brian gave an update on the steering committee meeting at the end of May. They received an extensive report from the engineering company in regards to the reservoir construction and the exchange construction which covered costs estimates for the construction as well as the continued operation and maintenance of each.

(26:58-1:11:49) OWRD surface water management in the Walla Walla Basin – Greg Silbernagel, the District 5 Watermaster, came to talk about protecting stream flow in the Walla Walla River. As of March, 28.03 c.f.s. of water is now protected instream flow.

(1:11:50-1:13:26) Couse Creek Confluence Fish Passage Project update – Brian gave update that he has final designs and are now working on permits, but still running into obstacles on the Corps permits. Brian has a tour with possible construction contractors on Wednesday to answer questions about the project before they submit their bids.

(1:13:27-1:14:46) North Fork Walla Walla River Fish Passage Design Project update- Brian updated council that GeoEngineers had won the contract. Brian and GeoEngineers will be meeting at the site along with Lance Bullock and Dan Knifong, the two managers of the two diversions on the lower end of the North Fork.

(1:14:47-1:24:24) Nursery Bridge Fish Passage Phase 2 update and draft agreement- Brian reported that designs are at 30% that have come in and he anticipates having a stakeholder meeting to discuss any questions or concerns that anyone may have at this point.

(1:24:25-1:45:01) Ecological flows analysis for the Walla Walla River- Marie gave an overview of her ecological flow analysis grant from OWRD that she has just finished up.

(1:45:02-1:57:02) Walla Walla region forest health/fire risk reduction collaboration discussions- The NRCS office in Pendleton has been teaming up with Oregon Dept. of Forestry and the USFS to put together a forest health fire risk reduction program for the forest lands in the upper watershed and they are interested in the WWBWC applying for cost share funds from OWEB to do more substantial treatments for fire reduction than what the existing program has right now. Brian will send out the information he has about the project to the board members for them to look over in more detail.
Fish returns and stream flows update- Even though we have a good water year, the fish run this year has not been what hoped for due to ocean conditions and the conditions in the Walla Walla river. Numbers have been declining since a peak in 2010.

Announcements:
None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2019, 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. All meeting recordings located at http://www.wwbwc.org/about/meetings.html