Fifteenmile Watershed Council Meeting
Barlow Ranger District Office, Dufur
September 5th, 2017
6:30 PM –8:30 PM

MINUTES
Attendees:

Shilah Olson, *SWCD*	Nate Woodard, *SWCD*	Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*
Phil Kaser, *Co-chair*	Stan Ashbrook	Robert Wallace, *WyEast RC&D*
Clinton Whitten, *NRCS*	David Brewer, *Member*	Frank Cochran, *NRCS*
Mike Kelly, *Member*	Bob Durham, *Member*	Jason Keller, *GeoSystems Analysis*
Bill Markman, *Member*	Amy Kaser	Andy Johnsen, *CTWS*
Charlie Remington	Elizabeth Tibbets	Jason Melady, *GSI*
Robyn Cook, *GSI*	Walt Burt, *GSI*	

Introduction, Review/Approval of Minutes
Phil called the meeting to order and led introduction.

There was a correction by Katie Pierson, ODFW to last meetings minutes. Last sentence of the minutes were corrected to say *"ODFW applied for an increase on their permit and on two occasions NOAA granted the increase."*

Bill moved to approve the minutes as corrected, David seconded and the motion passed.

Lamprey Monitoring - *Andy Johnsen, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS)*
Andy Johnsen, lamprey biologist with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), attended the meeting to provide the council an update on lamprey population estimates, distributions and density throughout the watershed. Andy mentioned the CTWS are having to redo some past studies that have been completed in the past. Tribal harvest started in April at Cushing falls. The total estimate of lamprey that made it above Cushing falls was around 2,500. The tribes tagged 162, with 109 being detected upstream of Fifteenmile and Eight Mile. 43 of those 109 were detected above the confluence of Fifteenmile and Eight Mile. The highest detection was up Fifteenmile at the confluence of Ramsey Creek.

CTWS biologists have been comparing genetics from adults caught in previous years, to juveniles that were caught this year. Data collection and monitoring for juvenile density and distributions started last week. They will also be working on a contaminant study, taking samples from juveniles.

There will be a new technician stationed in The Dalles, who will be building more relationships and have more of a presence at council meetings in the future.

2017 FAST Report – *Nate Woodard, Flow Restoration Coordinator*
Nate provided the council with an update on FAST for the 2017 season. He passed out copies of the FAST compensation schedule and reviewed a potential new analysis with the council. The change would include a higher compensation rate for water rights from 1959 and older. The council will continue to discuss at a later meeting when The Freshwater Trust can be part of the discussion.

Nate reviewed background information on the Fifteenmile watershed and compensation for options one and two. This year had the highest amount of landowner participation to date. There was one FAST alert that lasted from July 30th until August 13th. His report stated that flow was maintained as a result of the FAST alert. As the intense dry spell continued, natural water levels decreased despite continued irrigator reduction efforts. Without the FAST program, extreme temperatures combined with low flows would likely have negatively impacted aquatic life. However, there was no reported mortality of ESA-listed fish or other aquatic organisms documented by ODFW or employees monitoring FAST, nor any lamprey reported by CTWS.

The council discussed the cooler evenings that recently prevented another alert being issued. They also shared concern about what is going to happen once funding runs out in the next two years. Shilah said she is considering approaching the District Board for the option two funding. Council members also discussed instream leasing commitments.

Subsurface Storage Feasibility Study Phase 1 Completion Report and Next Steps – *Walt Burt & Jason Melady, GSI, Jason Keller GS Analysis*

Walt Burt and Jason Melady with GSI and Jason Keller with GS Analysis attended the meeting to present the subsurface storage feasibility study phase 1 findings. Their presentation included background information on the project, diagrams and details for the subsurface storage concept. Phase 1 included: updating elements of surface storage study; identifying fatal flaws and key unknowns; and identifying locations for Phase 2 testing. Water availability, permitting framework, conservation and alternatives evaluation, preliminary environmental assessment, infrastructure, and physical feasibility were topics covered in great detail. The project concept which is separated into three different geographic areas, was explained along with diagrams and photos and examples of laterals/recharge basins. Assumptions for alluvial aquifer collection rates for vertical wells and horizontal wells were broken down into a table that sorted out the Water rights group (1, 2 or 3), the four month target recharge rates (cfs), alluvial aquifer saturated hydraulic conductivity (ft./day), 10 ft. drawdown linear foot pumping rate (cfs)/well distance from river (ft.) and linear feet of horizontal well for target recharge/well distance from river (ft.). Alluvial aquifer collection rates for a recharge basin were categorized by water rights group (1, 2 or 3), four month target recharge rate (cfs), alluvial aquifer saturated hydraulic conductivity (ft./day), and basin area for target recharge (acres). A summary of findings and next steps were also described. No fatal flaws were identified and more evaluation is needed (phase 2) for the hydrogeologic feasibility.

Phase 2 (Test of Concept) will evaluate feasibility of diversion and treatment alternatives and bracket potential hydraulic properties of potential storage aquifers. Field characterization will be a phased approach with test pits/geologic logging and boreholes/piezometers in optimal locations (determined from test pits). Field characterization will also include In-situ testing of alluvial aquifer and basalt aquifer characterization.

Stan commented that even though there will be more flow in the creek, it doesn't change the temperature, so the problem has not been solved. What about putting the colder water that will be stored, back into the creek? Jason Melady said DEQ was worried there may by impairment from algae, but there is less concern if the water is stored underground. There may be a benefit in that concept, but there will be some water quality hurdles to get over. Discussion ensued around who manages, operates and funds this sort of facility; the feasibility for the crops that are raised in this

area; and what the cost per year would be for operation and maintenance vs building the system once the field has been verified at the end of Phase 2.

The council had two actions to approve or deny.
1. Test pits with a track hoe – identify better areas and where to target
2. Basalt well tests (from existing productive well)

Bob Durham moved that the watershed council recommend to the SWCD to have GSI continue work with test pits and well tests. David Brewer seconded and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest