

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
October 21, 2024
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Board Members: Jerimiah Bonifer, James Baker, Ed Chesnut, Caty Clifton, Jack Ferrise, Joel Huesby, Steve Irving, Malcolm Millar, Ralph Perkins, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner (Zoom), Nathan Viavant, John Zerba

Staff: Troy Baker, Wendy Harris, Sara Harris, Graham Banks, Tara Patten, Luke Adams, Eric Hoverson

Minutes

7:00 PM - Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- John Zerba called the meeting to order.
- The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

7:05 PM - Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative by Jerimiah Bonifer

- Jerimiah presented an overview of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative, a collaborative effort of the six sovereigns (the states of Oregon, Washington, and four Columbia Basin tribes).
- The initiative aims to create a comprehensive strategy for restoring salmon and steelhead populations, fulfilling treaty obligations, and addressing climate change and infrastructure needs.
- Jerimiah highlighted the initiative's key objectives, including habitat restoration, clean energy transition, and honoring federal commitments to tribal nations.
- He discussed the alignment anticipated outcomes, such as a resilient Columbia Basin ecosystem that benefits diverse stakeholders.

7:46 PM – Basin Flow Report by Luke Adams

- Luke provided updates on recent streamflow measurements taken between September 18 and October 18.
- Key data points included flows for South Fork (93 CFS), North Fork (7.2 CFS), and other local waterways, with comparisons to historical medians.
- Luke shared drought conditions based on data from the National Weather Service, noting current moderate drought conditions in certain areas and slightly below-average precipitation.

7:56 PM - RiverFest Gala Update by Wendy Harris

- Wendy reported that the RiverFest Gala, scheduled for Saturday, had 85 tickets sold, along with four table sponsorships.
- She noted that seven staff and six board members had purchased tickets, and over 20 items had been collected for the auction.
- Wendy shared the event timeline and confirmed that planning and donations are on track for the inaugural event.

8:00 PM - Announcements by Troy Baker

- Troy announced the upcoming Basin Advisory Committee meeting, where he and Ralph Perkins will attend.
- He also reminded attendees of the gala event scheduled for the weekend and thanked everyone involved in its planning.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 PM.