

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
January 16, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Council Members: Ray Williams, Ed Chesnut, Clark Lampson, Butch Coe, Jack Ferrise, Vern Rodighiero, Ralph Perkins, Larry Widner (Zoom), John Zerba, Katy Clifton, and Kevin Scribner (Zoom)

Staff: Troy Baker, Wendy Harris, Chris Sheets (Zoom), Graham Banks, Emily Tilden, Tara Patten (Zoom), Luke Adams, and Eric Hoverson

Guests:

The Meeting was called to order by John Zerba at 7:00 pm.

(4:00-4:06) Minutes from November 21, 2022 and December 19, 2022 meeting review: Ed Chesnut motioned to approve the minutes from November and December 2022 as submitted, and Vern Rodighiero seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

(4:07-24:15)WWBWC Annual Meeting-

- a. Board Members- Board Positions up for consideration are:** Malcolm Millar, Kevin Scribner, Katy Clifton, Jack Ferrise, and Butch Coe; all are still interested in serving on the board for another 3-year term. Ed moved to re-elect all members to the board up for consideration, with Ralph seconding. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Katy commented that it would be great to have a more diverse board in the future, and she thinks we should be actively seeking new nominees from different backgrounds, races, sex, etc. Troy asked board members if they would be interested in a board retreat where they could discuss issues such as board diversity and maybe come up with some answers on moving forward. Kevin added that a board retreat might also be an excellent time to work Strategic Action Plan. We actively have an open slot on the board with Molly Reid resigning this year. She represented our Wildlife sector, and it would be nice to have someone in that position. We could also look at whether there should be changes to which sector each board member represents to match some members better.
- b. Officer Selection-**Vern Rodighiero nominated John Zerba to continue to serve as Chairman, with Ralph Perkins seconding. Ed Chesnut nominated Vern Rodighiero as Vice Chair with Ralph Perkins seconding, and Clark Lampson nominated Ed Chesnut as Secretary/Treasurer with Ray Williams seconding. All nominations were unanimously voted in favor of the motions.
- c. Committee Chair-**In our By-Laws, we are supposed to have committee chairmans, so we need to nominate and vote on chairs for Project and Personnel committee chairs. The Fiscal/Education committee elected Kevin Scribner as their chair at the last meeting of that committee. It was decided that each committee would select a chair at their next committee meetings.
- d. Annual Budget-** Wendy went over our 2023 annual budget. Our secured funding for 2023 at this time is \$1,512,130.00. We have submitted grants for an additional \$4,441,716 in funding through OWEB, EPA, and NOAA. Our Operating Budget is \$1,452,265 in expenses, including operation costs, personnel, and other direct project costs. With secured grant funds of \$1,512,130 combined with private donations of \$1,334 and Valley Giving guide donations of \$2,625, and if you add in the pending grant funds of \$4,441,716 that funds us for the year and gives us \$4,505,540.00 carry over to next year. Granted, we will likely not receive all the pending grant funds, but even if we don't, we still have enough secured funds to have a modest carryover to 2024. Ray Williams moved to approve the budget with Katy Clifton seconding, and the vote was unanimous in approving the 2023 budget as submitted.

(24:16-37:15) Flow and Snow Pack Report by Luke Adams –The current flow on 1/13/23 was as follows: WW River below Tum-A-Lum Bridge was 249 c.f.s., no data was collected from Nursery bridge, the WWR at 15th Ave Bridge (Grove) was at 196 c.f.s. (this is OWRD data), North Fork WWR near the Confluence was at 61 c.f.s. South Fork WWR near the Confluence was at 212 c.f.s. Couse Creek at River Mile 1.1 had 62 c.f.s. Pine Creek at Schubert Road was 30 c.f.s. The 30-day median for each of the sites was as follows: South Fork WWR near the confluence was 153 c.f.s., North Fork WWR near the confluence was 44 c.f.s., WWR at 15th Ave (Grove) Bridge was 241 c.f.s., WWR below Tum-A-Lum bridge was 171 c.f.s., Pine Creek at Schubert Road was 7.7 c.f.s., Couse Creek at River Mile 1.1 was 25 c.f.s. NRCS Snow Water Equivalent in Walla Walla as of 1/12/23 shows 112% of the median. The snowpack at the following sites is High Ridge 15.5 SWE, Milk Shakes 20.7 SWE, Sourdough Gulch 0.8 SWE, Spruce Springs 6.6 SWE, and Touchet 16.8 SWE. Luke also shared the most current drought report information that Caty Clifton shared.

(37:16-45:25) Staff Project Updates: Eric/Troy-We are moving on to the construction of the first phase of the North Fork restoration project, but we submitted our grant applications prior to all the extreme price increases we have found for everything, construction, materials, etc., so we have been trying to find additional funding to help us fill the gap. **Graham**-Graham reported that his Salmon in the Classroom projects are up and going at Pilot Rock, Weston McEwen, and Ferndale. They kept the fish eggs colder over the holidays so that they would hatch when the kids were back from Winter break. **Troy**-Troy reported that he is signed up for the Sherwood Trust Rural Development leadership program, which starts next week. **Tara**-Working on the reporting for the habitat assessment work that they did in 2020, and she will be presenting at a future council meeting. She has been working on data management and processing with Brandyn and Emily for the springs inventory project, and she has been working on permitting for the Couse Creek project that will be implemented this summer.

(44:26-1:13:07) Eric Hoverson gave a presentation on the Couse Creek Mouth and Lampson Projects

Announcements:

- Walla Walla Water 2050 WWBAC Meeting is on January 25 from 1-2:30 pm
- February Project Committee Meeting (TBD)

Ralph reported:

- OWEB has hired Brian Wolcott as the Water Acquisition Coordinator
- The BOR has given the Walla Walla Water 2050 group a \$500k grant
- Capital Press had an article about the OWRD Salem office being a mess

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2023, 7:00–8:30 pm, at WWBWC office, 810 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater, OR.

The times before each heading are the meter times on the video recording.