

**Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting**  
**February 20, 2023**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

**Council Members:** Ray Williams, Butch Coe, Jack Ferrise (online), Malcolm Millar, Vern Rodighiero, Ralph Perkins, Larry Widner (Zoom), John Zerba, Caty Clifton, and Kevin Scribner (Zoom)

**Staff:** Troy Baker, Wendy Harris, Graham Banks, Emily Tilden, Tara Patten, Luke Adams, Brandyn Chaney and Eric Hoverson

**Guests:**

**(1:01) The Meeting was called to order by John Zerba at 7:00 pm.**

**(1:10-1:37) Minutes from January 16, 2023 meeting review:** Minutes were not voted on, but no additions or corrections were noted. The minutes from January need to be formally approved by the board at the next meeting.

**(1:40-6:22)\*Not on Agenda\* Oregon House Bill 2307 [www.wwbwc.org/docs/HB2307\\_OR2023.pdf](http://www.wwbwc.org/docs/HB2307_OR2023.pdf)** This bill is to add additional net funds of the levy bond in the amount of \$15 million from the Oregon State lottery board to the Oregon Business development department for deposit in the levy project grant fund. Steve Irving asked that Troy distribute this information to the board for discussion at tonight's meeting and if agreed upon, write a letter of support of the bill to the house. There was not a motion to support writing the letter.

**(6:23-7:05)Project Committee Meeting-**There will be a project committee meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Proposal packets will be sent via email by this Friday afternoon. We will also provide lunch and Wendy will get in touch with everyone to get their order.

**(7:06-40:36) Walla Walla River Flows Update by Luke Adams** –The flows on 2/17/23 were as follows: WW River below Tum-A-Lum Bridge was 177 c.f.s., no data was collected from Nursery bridge, the WWR at 15<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge (Grove) was at 208 c.f.s. (this is OWRD data), North Fork WWR near the Confluence was at 37 c.f.s. South Fork WWR near the Confluence was at 156 c.f.s. Couse Creek at River Mile 1.1 had 11 c.f.s. Pine Creek at Schubert Road was 12 c.f.s. The 30-day median for each of the sites was as follows: South Fork WWR near the confluence was 160 c.f.s., North Fork WWR near the confluence was 38 c.f.s., WWR at 15<sup>th</sup> Ave (Grove) Bridge was 217 c.f.s., WWR below Tum-A-Lum bridge was 177 c.f.s., Pine Creek at Schubert Road was 10.9 c.f.s., Couse Creek at River Mile 1.1 was 12.6 c.f.s. NRCS Snow Water Equivalent in Walla Walla as of 2/20/23 shows 106% of the median. The snowpack at the following sites is High Ridge 22” SWE, Milk Shakes 29.2” SWE, Sourdough Gulch 0.6” SWE, Spruce Springs 9” SWE, and Touchet 23.8” SWE. Umatilla and Walla Walla counties are not currently in any drought conditions. Luke also discussed temperature forecasts and water temperature data for the water year 2022. This report is located on our website.

**(40:37-50:55) Staff Project Updates: Eric Hoverson** -We are approaching 100% design on the first reach of the North Fork above the gate on the Sam's property; this should be complete by March. The intent is to construct this summer from July to September. **Tara**-We are making progress on the permitting for the Couse Creek project and intend to install the BDA's this summer in the dry season (Aug or Sept). Contractor bids for this project are due March 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the North Fork, we have been going up every month to collect data on temperature, turbidity, and flow values in order to establish baseline conditions so after the treatment that Eric's working on we can go back and measure again and evaluate our incremental change and success of the treatments. **Graham**- He has been working on coordinating guest speakers for some of his classroom classes. He has also been continuing his "Salmon in the Classroom" lessons. **Emily**-Emily has applied with Earth Day Oregon, a parent organization that would allow us to use them as a segue to engage with businesses in Oregon. Those businesses would give us donations, cash, or in-kind donations. They also help publicize organizations

and businesses when the organization hosts an event. She is waiting to hear back on the event she has proposed to Earth Day Oregon, which would incorporate a tree planting at the Lampsons.

**(50:56-1:04:15) Update on the Walla Walla Water 2050 Plan:** Troy Baker reported that there have been a few meetings since our WWBWC board last met. There has been an advisory committee meeting where we discussed being awarded the USBR basin study grant for \$500k with WDOE matching with \$500k. The two states and the tribes are now in the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding. This is the initial step of bringing the Feds to the table. In a meeting with Chris Kowitz, we conveyed that we need to see some implementation and movement forward, and he agreed.

**(1:04:16-1:37:23) Upper Walla Walla Habitat Survey Project Completion Presentation by Tara Patten-** Tara gave a presentation of the work completed on this project where they surveyed about 40 miles of the river. This proved to be a great way to start discussions with around 150 landowners since we had to get permission from them to walk their property.

**(1:38:01-1:49:56) Pesticide Stewardship Partnership 2022 Presentation by Troy Baker-**Troy will set up a meeting with the Blue Mountain Horticulture group to review the results in a few weeks.

**Announcements:**

- We are running another photo contest for February
- USGS Basin Groundwater Study meeting will be Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the BMCC in M-F
- The project committee meeting will be March 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 here at the office
- The Northwest Groundwater Conference will be in Pasco on March 6-7

**Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.**

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

Full meeting is recorded and posted on the website and the times before each heading are the meter times on the video recording for each topic.