

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

**Present:**

Council Members: Clark Lampson, Steve Irving, Butch Coe, Jack Ferrise, Malcolm Millar, Vern Rodighiero, Ralph Perkins, Larry Widner (Zoom), John Zerba, and Kevin Scribner (Zoom)

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

Guests: John Fazio, Brad Coe, Cora and Jacque Edwards (Zoom), Randal Son, and John Warinner

**(2:48) The Meeting was called to order by John Zerba at 7:00 pm.**

**(2:56-4:09) Introduction of guests:** John Fazio (local resident), Cora and Jacque Edwards (Zoom), Randall Son

**(4:10-4:16) Minutes from January 16, 2023 and February 20, 2023 meeting review:** With no additions or corrections the minutes were approved as submitted.

**(4:18-6:10) Project Committee Recommendations:** The projects presented to the project committee for review and possible recommendation at the project committee meeting were as follows:

1. Assessments-Big and Little Meadow Canyon Creeks as well as Dry Creek and Lower Pine Creek, these would be OWEB technical assistance grants
2. Couse Creek RM 4 Floodplain and Aquatic Habitat Restoration Phase II, this would be a OWEB restoration grant proposal
3. North Fork Riparian Planting at RM4 this would be for after the construction project we have planned for this summer
4. Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Project-this is a proposal for ODA and ODEQ
5. Hydrological Trend Monitoring Project-this would be to continue monitoring work we are currently doing
6. Watershed Stewardship Workshops Project

Malcolm made a motion to move forward with submission of these proposals, with Ralph seconding. The vote in favor of the motion to move forward was unanimous.

**(6:11-8:28) Bylaws Review and Fiscal Policy Review -** On March 6<sup>th</sup> the new round for OWEB Council Capacity grants opened up, and this grant comes with some new requirements. We need to review our Bylaws every three years and our Fiscal Policy. Ours were last approved in 2018, so they needed a review. Vern Rodighiero motioned to approve our Bylaws as they stand, and Ralph Perkins seconded the motion. The vote to approve the Bylaws as they stand was unanimous in favor of the motion. John clarified that the motion was for Bylaws and Fiscal Policy and everyone was still in favor of approving both as they stand.

**(10:45-1:01:33) Presentation of Walla Walla Waters Supply by John Warinner, PE, CWRE from Watersolving LLC**

**(1:01:56-1:08:45)- Flow and Snowpack Report by Luke Adams-**The flows on 3/17/23 were as follows: WW River below Tum-A-Lum Bridge was 174 c.f.s., no data was collected from Nursery bridge, the WWR at 15<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge (Grove) was at 312 c.f.s. (this is OWRD data), North Fork WWR near the Confluence was at 51 c.f.s. South Fork WWR near the Confluence was at 184 c.f.s. Couse Creek at River Mile 1.1 had 21 c.f.s. Pine Creek at Schubert Road was 31 c.f.s. The 30-day median for each of the sites was as follows: South Fork WWR near the confluence was 156 c.f.s., North Fork WWR near the confluence was 36 c.f.s., WWR at 15<sup>th</sup> Ave (Grove) Bridge was 196 c.f.s., WWR below Tum-A-Lum bridge was 170 c.f.s., Pine Creek at Schubert Road was 11.4 c.f.s., Couse Creek at River Mile 1.1 was 10.8 c.f.s. NRCS Snow Water Equivalent in Walla Walla as

of 3/20/2023 shows 106% of the median. The snowpack at the following sites is High Ridge 29.4” SWE, Milk Shakes 36.5” SWE, Sourdough Gulch 0.5” SWE, Spruce Springs 11.6” SWE, and Touchet 29.8” SWE.

**(1:08:46-1:28:25) Brandy Chaney gave a presentation on the Walla Walla River Base Flow Assessment –** He went over why we did this assessment, the methods in which they collected the data, the preliminary results of the data and the North Fork Walla Walla River spring protection-culvert project.

**(1:28:26-) Announcements:**

- We are running another photo contest for March, with Green being the theme
- Walla Walla Water 2050 BAC Meeting will be March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00-4:00 pm
- WWR Assessment Meeting will be March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm in Walla Walla at the Water Center and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Albee Room at the Milton Freewater Library at 5:00 pm
- The projects tour has been scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Eric wanted to congratulate our board member, Vern Rodighiero, for being named man of the year for Milton Freewater at the recent Chamber Awards banquet. He also mentioned that Tilly Makepiece, Jack Ferrise’s wife received Woman of the Year
- Ralph shared a news article about Washington legislation to protect organizations from lawsuits after construction in trying to improve the ecosystem
- There is a hearing on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for Oregon legislative budget regarding Walla Walla 2050-Troy has a copy of what has moved forward and will be reviewed at this meeting. Troy stated that another meeting will be on March 30, 2023. Both Washington and Oregon bills say 50% will need to be funded by other parties. He has offered to send copies of bills to the board at their request.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.**

**Next Meeting: April 17, 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.