

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
July 17, 2023
Meeting Minutes (draft)

Attendees:

Board Members:

John Zerba, Kevin Scribner, Vern Rodighiero, Ralph Perkins, Malcolm Millar, Ed Chesnut, and Steve Irving, Jeremiah Bonifer, Larry Widner, Caty Clifton

Staff:

Troy Baker, Emily Tilden (Zoom), Tara Patten, Brandyn Chaney, Luke Adams, Eric Hoverson, and Graham Banks

Guests:

Yvonne Roberts (Zoom)

(0:01:52) The Meeting was called to order by John Zerba at 7:00 pm. Minutes are approved from June meeting.

(0:02:12) Yvonne Roberts, Independent Auditor's Report: Presented and explained the audit report completed by her team while performing the FY 2022 audit for the WWBWC. No federal findings to report.

(0:14:17) Jeremiah Bonifer, CTUIR, introduction: Jeremiah has been awarded Gary James' position and will be CTUIR sector board member going forward.

(0:19:59)- Flow and Snowpack Report by Luke Adams

Quick update for the 6/14/2023 – 7/14/2023 window.

The current flows (medians: measured data and date and *notes where applicable) as of Friday, 7/14/23 were as follows:

- NFWWR near confluence @ 9.2 cfs (8.35 cfs median: 7.6 cfs measured 7/4/23)
- SFWWR near confluence @ 92 cfs (112 cfs median: 104 cfs measured 7/4/23)
- Couse Creek @ 0.6 cfs (.9 cfs median: .5 cfs measured 7/4/23)
- WWR at 15th Ave Bridge (Grove) @ 108 cfs (OWRD) (136 cfs median: OWRD did measure on 7/6/23 at about 120 cfs)
 - 10-year median data for WWR at 15th Ave (Grove) Bridge:
 - June finished with a higher monthly median flow (152 cfs) against the 10-year data (177 cfs).
 - First half of July is continuing this elevated trend, with June 2023 at 113 cfs (expected to drop more throughout the month) compared to 120 cfs 10-year-avg.
 - The total year volume in acre-feet for 2023 is 157,941 acre-feet approx. which is 121% of the median volume for the 10-year average of 130,590.
- Little Walla Walla Diversion @ 67 cfs (OWRD)
- Nursery Bridge @ 37 cfs (27 cfs median; 6/20/23 measured at 27.9cfs , 7/3/23 measured at 25.8cfs, and 7/6/23 measured at 26.9cfs—gave the rating curve for this new equipment is now all set).
- WWR below Tum-A-Lum @ 13 cfs (8.92 cfs median: 9.8 cfs measured on 7/3/23)
- Pine Creek @ Schubert Rd. is dry.
- *Mill Creek near Walla Walla @ 30 cfs. (33.8 cfs median: 6/22/23 two measurements of 35 and 32 cfs were taken)

NOAA/NWS update- Currently in a moderate drought for our area; below normal prep and above normal temperatures expected through October, the Blue Mountains provide a sharp divide for areas and what they can likely expect throughout the season. Above normal wildland fire potential anticipated for our area in July through September.

(0:41:37) Updates:

Projects

North Fork, Eric: All permits obtained and a work time has been scheduled.

Couse Creek RM4, Tara: Everything on track for installation during previously announced time (8/24-8/28); volunteers will be welcome to join.

Cup Gulch, Troy: Some modeling progress has been advanced (LiDAR from NF extrapolated in GIS to Cup Gulch area to share with landowners).

Monitoring, Luke: Has been working with USGS to get our data incorporated into the groundwater study.

Education, Graham: Reiterated on some, and elaborated on other, salmon in the classroom activities that were completed in the spring. Plans to participate with YMCA camp at end of Aug. OCRF proposal was awarded funding.

Outreach, Emily: Newsletter imminent, new website is coming along nicely—would like to get a picture of the board for it, perhaps at the beginning of the next meeting.

(0:58:02) Mill Creek spring inventory, Brandyn and Tara presentation: Shared with the board why and how we're doing this work and what we're seeing so far in this area.

(1:27:04) Announcements:

- July photo contest- basin agriculture.
- RDI Community Leadership Project Day on August 5th from 8a-12p
- The next WW Water 2050 PFO meeting is August 9th from 9-11a.
- The next board meeting is August 21st, 7- 8:30p.

(1:30:58) Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

The entire meeting is recorded and posted on the website. The **(times)** correspond to the meter times on the video recording for each topic.