

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
August 21, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Board Members:

Ralph Perkins, Ed Chesnut, Caty Clifton, Steve Irving, Clark Lampson, Larry Widner, Vern Rodrighiero, Malcolm Millar, Kevin Scribner

Staff:

Troy Baker, Wendy Harris, Emily Tilden, Brandyn Chaney, Tara Patten, Eric Hoverson, Luke Adams

Guests:

(0:02:04) The Meeting was called to order by Vern R. at 7:00 pm. Moved by Ed to approve last meeting's minutes, seconded by Malcom. Minutes were approved.

(0:02:48) Board Member Recruitment: Still have an open seat on the board. Troy and staff propose a small meet and greet type events to try to fill the open position on the board.

(0:05:47)- Flow Report by Luke Adams

Quick update for the 7/18/2023 – 8/17/2023 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 @ 7.1 cfs (6.4 cfs median: 6.6 cfs measured 8/10/23)
- SFWWR near confluence @ 92 cfs (93.5 cfs median: 98 cfs measured 8/8/23)
- Couse Creek @ 0 cfs(0.0 cfs median: .01 cfs (4.5 gpm) measured 8/1/23) *water present, not flowing
- WWR at 15th Ave Bridge (Grove) @ 102 cfs (OWRD) (99.6 cfs median: OWRD did 2 measurements in the last month, looks like some adjusting to curve may still be needed)
 - 10-year median data for WWR at 15th Ave (Grove) Bridge:
 - July and the first half of August (104 cfs and 100 cfs, respectively) are slightly below the median average against the 10-year data (120 cfs July, 103 cfs for August).
 - Water year 2023 is at 164,140 acre feet, 19% more than the historic average of 137,730. This gap has been decreasing since June, but not by huge amounts.
- Little Walla Walla Diversion @ 63 cfs (OWRD)
- Nursery Bridge @ 33 cfs (28.9 cfs median; 25.9 cfs measured on 8/1/2023 this was part of OWRD's quarterly measurements).
- WWR below Tum-A-Lum @ 13 cfs (9.21 cfs median: 6.5 and 5.7 cfs measured on 8/1/23 and was also part of OWRD measurements)
- Pine Creek @ Schubert Rd. is bone dry.
- Mill Creek near Walla Walla @ 30 cfs. (29.5 cfs median)

NOAA/NWS update- Degradation in our area of Umatilla county to drought level 2. Normal to below-normal temps have prevailed, but has been accompanied by less precip than normal, however, according to this data the precip hasn't been greatly less. Outlook for the next 3 months is a 40-50% chance to experience above-normal temps and continue to receive below-normal precip. August and September will see significant wildfire potential for our areas until October.

(0:20:12) Rural Development Initiative Community Leadership Program, Troy Baker:

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council acted as the fiscal agent in this session of the Community Leadership Program (funded by Sherwood Trust). This presentation was on the program's identified

project at Marie Dorion park and opportunities WWBWC may have to continue some projects within the area.

(0:36:45) Updates:

Projects

Mill Creek Baseflow Assessment/Springs, Brandyn: 46 springs surveyed and recorded. Have hit the south working to east hard and looking to get to some areas that we haven't accessed much yet. Working as best as we can. Taking isotope samples from many of these sites; preliminary data suggests the groundwater in Mill Creek is relatively young. Cultural resource report came back as well.

Couse Creek RM4, Tara: Scheduled to construct on Thursday. Crew leader and principal toured last week; liked site and very promising. Volunteers are more than welcome to come out and join both the WWBWC crew and the contracted crew on this work.

North Fork, Eric: Construction crew delayed, but getting it started now. Machines have made it to the site and relief channel digging has commenced. As material delivery is completed structures will start going into the mainstem to help in redirecting high flow events both to the new side channels as well as away from the road.

Overview on Spring OWEB projects, Troy: We received reviews of spring proposals; of 5, 4 were recommended for funding and will move forward through the process. We will meet with our regional director to discuss aspects of the proposal that was not recommended for funding and will plan to resubmit that this fall. We hope to hold a Projects Committee meeting to communicate all the projects we plan to submit this fall.

Water 2050: Fall open house from 4-8pm; WWBWC will be part of this. Reviewed federal funding opportunities. Troy and Emily have also been meeting with the PFO to nail down a SOW that would allow us and the conservation district to work on the outreach aspects of 2050.

(1:06:54) Announcements:

- August photo contest- golden hour.
- RDI Community Leadership Celebration on August 24th from 5:30-7:30p
- The next board meeting is September 18th, 7- 8:30p.

(1:09:12) Meeting adjourned at 8:07 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.