

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
March 18, 2024
Meeting Minutes (draft)

ATTENDEES

Board Members: Sara Harris, Joel Huesby, Nathan Viavant, James Baker, Jeremiah Bonifer (Zoom), John Zerba, Kevin Scribner, Jack Ferrise, Steve Irving, Ralph Perkins (Zoom), Vern Rodighiero, Malcolm Millar, Caty Clifton.

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

Guests: Trea Nance (Zoom), Jon Brough (Zoom)

(0:00:00) The Meeting was called to order by John Z. at 7:00 pm. February minutes approved

(0:01:20) Fiscal and Education committee update. Re-discuss upcoming Open House (May 2) and the “Deadliest Catch” fundraiser. Receive consensus from whole board to move forward with fundraiser as proposed, allowing for either passive or active fundraising by board and staff from May-September, approx.

(0:11:58) WWBWC Self-Evaluation Results, 2024. Troy briefly touched base on results and trends the survey suggest. Please reach out to him for more details if desired.

(0:18:55) Council Meeting Date/Time Survey. After survey results and discussion, it was decided that the meeting date and times would not change ***EXCEPT*** on days that a holiday occurs on the same day as the meeting, wherein the meeting will be held on the following Monday.

(0:34:51) Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Questionnaire. Troy presented on the SAP Update project: its funding, importance, and the strategy we’re using for it. The survey was opened up for comments and feedback.

(1:04:04) Flow Report by Luke Adams

Quick update for the 2/14/2024 – 3/15/2024 window.

SITE	CURRENT (3/15/2024)	MEASURED FLOW & DATE	30-DAY MEDIAN
South Fork WW near confluence	180 cfs	187 cfs on 3/6/24	171 cfs
North Fork WW near confluence	45 cfs	102 cfs on 3/1/24	48.6 cfs
WW @ 15 th Ave Bridge (Grove)*+	290 cfs	~260 cfs on 2/23/24	271 cfs
WW below Tum-A-Lum**	280 cfs	223 cfs on 3/8/24	254 cfs
Couse Creek @ RM 1.1	23 cfs	37 cfs on 3/1/24	20 cfs
Little WW Diversion *	<i>Not pulling water</i>	-	-
Pine Creek below Schubert	27 cfs	28 cfs on 3/11/24	21.1 cfs
WW below Nursery Bridge	<i>Not collecting data</i>	-	-
Mill Creek (USGS data)	140 cfs	-	111 cfs

*OWRD data ** undergoing channel changes

*WY2024 MONTHLY MEDIAN FLOW CURRENTLY **287 CFS** VS 30-YR MEDIAN **345 CFS**.

VOLUME OF 2024 VS HISTORIC IS AT **122%**. HIGH-FLOW EVENT NOTED BETWEEN PREVIOUS AND PRESENT MEETINGS. (77,115 ACRE FT WY2024 VS. 63,204 ACRE FT 30-YR MEDIAN)

NRCS/SNOTEL- overall at **90%** of the median water equivalent snowpack value as of 3/15 /24

- High Ridge @ 99%

- Milk Shakes @ 92%
- Touchet @ 84%
- Spruce Springs @ 78%.
- Sourdough Gulch *not reading*

NOAA/NWS update- Slight degradation to D0 category, “abnormally dry”, for both Umatilla and Walla Walla counties. Walla Walla reporting higher average temperatures overall by approx. 1.5 degrees F and reporting slightly below normal precipitation.

(1:15:45) OWEB Grant Proposal Ranking Update

Through local review team all submitted proposals but one received ranking above the fund line.

(1:31:15) Spring Education and Outreach line-up and additional project updates.

List of events planned out through the beginning of June.

Couse Creek upcoming construction update and update on structures placed last year.

(1:38:10) Announcements

- March 21st: Western Water 101, 2024 at 5:30pm in the M-F Community Building
- March 25th-April 5th: OWEB Small Grant applications accepted
- March 27th: BAC meeting from 1-4pm.
- The next board meeting is April 15th, 7pm.

-Forest planning communication.

-Loss of previous board member, announced celebration of life date and time.

(1:41:43) Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.