

**Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting**  
**April 15, 2024**  
**Meeting Minutes (draft)**

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:** James Baker, Jerimiah Bonifer, Ed Chesnut, Caty Clifton, Jack Ferrise, Sara Harris, Joel Huesby, Clark Lampson (Zoom), Malcolm Millar, Ralph Perkins, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner, Nathan Viavant, John Zerba

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

**Guests:** Brian Mahoney, Chris Kowitz

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

**(0:01:21) Agenda and board business.** Minutes approved. SAP Committee progress. RiverFest date discussion. Floor was opened for additional business and received none.

**(0:09:51) BAC “Field Trip”.** Spring Chinook release at Mill Creek info regarding that.

**(0:11:34) Monitoring Steelhead Use of Habitat Proposal.** Tara and Brandyn present this project to the board for approval to pursue for this somewhat spur of the moment project.

**(0:25:23) Chris Kowitz on Senate Bill 1567.** Companion bill to passed legislation from Washington State, directly related to work through the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Action Plan.

**(1:14:38) Education and Outreach events.** Graham reports on science night and volunteer event. Emily reviews upcoming Open House

**(1:24:41) Walla Walla River Flow Update, by Luke Adams.**

Quick update for the 3/13/2024 – 4/12/2024 window.

SITE	CURRENT (4/12/2024)	MEASURED FLOW & DATE	30-DAY MEDIAN
South Fork WW near confluence	250cfs	217 cfs 4/2/24   227 cfs 4/11/24	237 cfs
North Fork WW near confluence	79 cfs	78 cfs on 4/11/24	65.6 cfs
WW @ 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge (Grove)*+	280 cfs	~327 cfs on 4/4/24	330 cfs
WW below Tum-A-Lum**	190 cfs	244 cfs 4/1/24   186 cfs 4/10/24	223 cfs
Couse Creek @ RM 1.1	18 cfs	17.2 cfs on 4/9/24	25.5 cfs
Little WW Diversion *	105 cfs	-	-
Pine Creek below Schubert	8.3 cfs	14.4 cfs on 4/10/24	21.2 cfs
WW below Nursery Bridge	<i>Not collecting data</i>	-	-
Mill Creek (USGS data)	140 cfs	-	137 cfs

\*OWRD data \*\* undergoing channel changes

\*WY2024 MONTHLY MEDIAN FLOW CURRENTLY **340 CFS** VS 30-YR MEDIAN **397 CFS**.

VOLUME OF 2024 VS HISTORIC IS AT **111%**. (96,134 ACRE FT WY2024 VS. 86,998 ACRE FT 30-YR MEDIAN)

**NRCS/SNOTEL-** overall at **80%** of the median water equivalent snowpack value as of 4/15/24

- High Ridge @ 101%
- Milk Shakes @ 84%

- Touchet @ 70%
- Spruce Springs @ 49%.
- Sourdough Gulch *median=0; no %*

**NOAA/NWS update-** Drought status of Umatilla and Walla Walla unchanged from last report (abnormally dry). Forecast for the coming season shows that our area will be predominantly near- to slightly above normal for temperature and near- to slightly below normal for precipitation. So far for the water year, KAWL at Walla Walla shows that we have received slightly below normal precipitation (approx. 1.32 inches less)

**(Project updates were skipped due to running late on other topics)**

**(1:33:10) Announcements**

- Strategic Action Plan Committee meeting tbd.
- Open House May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3-7pm.
- WWW 2050 BAC meeting May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-4pm.
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**(1:41:43) Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.**