

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
June 17, 2024
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Board Members: James Baker, Ed Chesnut, Caty Clifton, Sara Harris, Joel Huesby, Steve Irving, Malcolm Millar, Ralph Perkins, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner, and John Zerba

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

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order by John Z. at 7:00 pm

7:00 PM - Announcements and Agenda Adjustments:

- **Troy Baker** announced that Jeremiah could not attend; therefore, the CTUIR River Vision presentation was postponed to the next meeting.

7:05 PM - Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes from the April and May meetings were reviewed. The Board Chair confirmed there were no additions or corrections. The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

7:10 PM - Strategic Action Plan Update Troy Baker:

- **Troy** reported that the committee had met earlier to discuss updates to the mission, vision, and goals of the Strategic Action Plan. Progress was noted, with expectations to share detailed updates with the full board soon.

7:15 PM - Fieldwork Update by Brandon Chaney:

- **Brandon** discussed recent trenching work on the North Fork Walla Walla River, aimed at ecosystem restoration. He detailed the protective measures taken to safeguard new plantings, including fencing to prevent grazing by livestock. Survival rates of plantings were discussed, with some areas showing up to 90% success.

7:20 PM - 2050 Community Tour Troy Baker:

- **Troy** shared insights from the recent 2050 community tour on June 15, which aimed to engage community leaders in water management discussions. He highlighted interactions with community leaders and the discussion on cross-state water management policies.

7:25 PM - Flow Measurement Updates by Luke Adams:

- **Luke** provided updates on recent flow measurements across various sites. He highlighted challenges with telemetry equipment and discrepancies between expected and actual flow data, emphasizing the need for manual data verification. He also provided an update on the forecast of future air temperatures and precipitation for our basin.

7:35 PM - Resignation and Recruitment:

- **Troy** announced Emily's resignation and the ongoing recruitment process for her replacement. Adjustments were made to the Personnel Committee meeting schedule to avoid conflicts with other commitments, underscoring the need for prompt action in filling the vacancy.

7:40PM - Project Updates:

- **Eric Hoverson** shared updates on recently acquired permits that would facilitate the upcoming North Fork Walla Walla River project implementation. Thanks to these developments, he expressed increased confidence in the project schedules for the summer.
- The council discussed several project proposals submitted for funding through the Office of Columbia River (OCR). **Troy** emphasized these projects' strategic importance and potential impact on resources in Washington State.
- **Wendy** discussed various operational adjustments following Emily's resignation, upcoming events, and the integration of new staff into ongoing projects. Plans for future outreach events and fundraising activities were also laid out.

8:01 PM - Closing:

- The meeting adjourned with commitments to reconvene for further discussions on project funding, recruitment, and community engagement. Future plans include detailed discussions on outreach strategies and upcoming workshops.