

**Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting**  
**March 16, 2026**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

**Board Members:** James Baker, Kevin Scribner, Ed Chesnut, Caty Clifton, Joel Huesby, Mark Medina, Ralph Perkins

**Staff:** Michelle McClellan, Wendy Harris, Sara Harris, Tara Patten, Luke Adams, Cat Garza, Ryan Pike

**Guest(s):** None

**(7:00 PM) Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Chair James Baker. A quorum was present.

**(7:01) Business**

- February 2026 meeting minutes
  - Motion: Ed Chesnut moved to approve the minutes.
  - Second: Ralph Perkins
  - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
  
- Executive Committee member-at-large nomination
  - Motion: James Baker moved to appoint Joel Huesby to the Executive Committee as member-at-large.
  - Second: Ed Chesnut
  - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
  
- Revision of Fiscal Policies & Procedures
  - Secretary/Treasurer Ed Chesnut reported that the Fiscal/Education Committee had revised the Fiscal Policies and Procedures for consideration by the Board.
    - Motion: Ralph Perkins moved to approve the revised policies and procedures.
    - Second: Kevin Scribner
    - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
  
- Announcement
  - At his request, former Chair John Zerba will represent the Recreation sector on the WWBWC Board.

**(7:10) Streamflow Report – Luke Adams**

- Covered February 11 to March 13, so no data from the recent high flow event.
- SNOTEL sites reduced to two. Only using Sourdough Gulch and Milkshakes for historical data.
- For the water year, we are at 61% of the median for snowpack.
- No drought information yet available yet for March.

**(7:25) Project & Staff Updates**

- Dry Creek & Lower Pine Creek landowner engagement – Cat Garza

- Approximately two dozen participants attended the March 5 event hosted by WWBWC and Anabran Solutions for landowners in the Dry Creek and Lower Pine Creek subwatersheds. Six surveys returned indicating interest in site visits and potential low-tech restoration designs.
- An OWEB Technical Assistance grant will support design work for at least two interested landowner projects, with additional design support potentially available through partnership with the Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan – Cat Garza
  - Cat recently joined the Walla Walla Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan Local Advisory Committee. Six seats remain open.
- Connect+ Conference
  - With funding from Salmon Safe, Cat will attend the OCEAN (Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network) Connect+ Conference in Seaside, Oregon (March 31–April 2).
- Connecting Communities to Watershed Health – Sara Harris
  - Current efforts focus on developing a bilingual Story Map in partnership with Kittelson & Associates, highlighting successful restoration projects on the North Fork and Couse Creek.
  - Staff recently completed three landowner interviews. The purpose is to elevate landowner voices and perspectives, build trust with hesitant landowners, and support future project development.
  - Plans shared for future landowner-led workshops.
- Aquifer Recharge Committee – Tara Patten
  - This new special committee will guide and support staff in:
    - revising the limited license application;
    - identifying additional spring monitoring locations;
    - developing a funding plan for short-term recharge operations; and
    - evaluating long-term options for a more stable water supply.
  - Members: James Baker, Joel Huesby, Mark Medina, John Zerba, and Ralph Perkins.
  - The committee will determine if community members and/or technical advisors will be invited to participate in a non-voting capacity, with approval by the full Board.
- Project Committee – Tara Patten
  - Short-term focus: standardizing the project selection and prioritization process as directed by the WWBWC Strategic Action Plan.
  - Per the bylaws, the Board will elect a committee Chair at a later date.
- Forest Service projects – Tara Patten
  - Two projects funded by the U.S. Forest Service and OWEB are ending with final reports being submitted for:
    - Lookingglass Creek Level II Stream Survey; and
    - Mill Creek springs inventory.
- OWEB Council Capacity Grant rulemaking – Wendy Harris & Michelle McClellan
  - Board members are encouraged to provide comments to OWEB during the public participation process for watershed council capacity grant rulemaking.

### **(8:15) Big Basin Issues**

- Updates to the Big Basin Issues list discussed.

### **(8:36 PM) Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.