

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
November 20, 2023
Meeting Minutes (draft)

Attendees:

Board Members:

Joel Huesby, Ralph Perkins, John Zerba, Steve Irving, Malcolm Millar, Jack Ferrise, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner, Jeremiah Bonifer (Zoom), Ed Chesnut

Staff:

Troy Baker, Wendy Harris, Brandyn Chaney, Emily Tilden, Luke Adams, Eric Hoverson, Graham Banks

Guests:

Sara Harris, Dan Mildon (Zoom), James Baker, Dennis Dauble (joined after online intros)

(0:1:40) The Meeting was called to order by John Z. at 7:00 pm. Attendance of a quorum noted. Online guests were introduced.

(0:2:03) Board Business. October minutes moved and seconded for approval. Review of the personnel committee meeting including suggestion to approve the 3 new board members and vote to approve. Moved and seconded to vote; all three passed. This puts us at 16 of 21 possible board members. Wildlife sector is still open, but we have some new exciting sectors filled.

(0:7:31) Flow Report by Luke Adams 7:06

Quick update for the 10/21/2023 – 11/20/2023 window.

The current flows (medians: measured data and date and *notes where applicable) as of Friday, 9/15/23 were as follows:

- NFWWR near confluence 11.9 cfs median; 66.4 cfs measured 11/08/23
- SFWWR near confluence 116 cfs median; 121 cfs measured 11/13/23
- WWR at 15th Ave Bridge 134 cfs median, OWRD hasn't made a measurement since Oct
- Nursery Bridge 59.7 cfs median; 94.9 cfs measured on 11/16/2023— median not entirely accurate, missing some data above 200cfs, estimate 95cfs to be a more accurate median value. Pulled equipment out for season.
- WWR below Tum-A-Lum 74.3 cfs median; 80.6 cfs measured 11/16/2023
- Couse Creek 1.49 cfs median; 3cfs measured 11/20/23
- Pine Creek @ Schubert Rd. has a median of 0 due to lack of flow during most of the days; 9.6 cfs measured on 11/8/2023
- Little Walla Walla Diversion, Mill Creek near Walla Walla and 10-yr data not presented at this meeting

NRCS/SNOTEL- overall at 42% of the median water equivalent snowpack value. High Ridge @12%, Milk Shakes @ 54%, Touchet @ 62%; Emigrant Springs, Sourdough Gulch, and Spruce Springs not measured/@0%.

NOAA/NWS update- Notable improvements in eastern OR and WA with no notable degradation. Most areas recorded above normal temperatures in this area and most received near normal precip, with areas in the Blue Mountains receiving above normal. Above normal temp and precip projected.

(0:15:22) WW Water2050 Update:

- **USGS Groundwater Study-** They provided several booths for visual representation on groundwater in our basin.
- **Water2050@ Whitman-** WWBWC attended an outreach event organized by the 2050 Watershed Strategy for engagement with the community regarding the 2050 strategy.

***Both these events were well attended.**

- **WWBWC is actively trying to tie into the Water2050 outreach efforts and will continue to do so.**

(0:21:08) OWEB proposal update:

-In Oct, our OWEB regional rep presented on both of the stakeholder engagement grants we submitted in the spring; Watershed Workshops and Dry Creek. The WWBWC Strategic Action Plan and Trend Monitoring proposals have also been fully approved.

-The following proposals were submitted for the Fall round: North Fork Project Design, Big and Little Canyon Creeks Assessment (resubmit), Stormwater Engagement Process (resubmit), Couse Creek RM4 Restoration (phase 2), Couse Creek RM8 Design, Stakeholder Engagement

-Northwest Power Conservation Council presentation synopsis.

(0:28:09) North Fork Updates, Eric Hoverson: Review of the processes completed to get this far in the project so far, what we're looking to correct within the system, why we're doing it, and how.

(1:02:58) North Fork planting, Brandyn Chaney: The planting techniques for the first round of planting completed this fall in the first North Fork construction reach. Included the species and stock used for planting, how areas were chose for planting, and the methods of planting.

(1:12:38) Announcements:

- November photo contest: macro photos
- Valley Giving Guide fundraiser 411
- Greater Milton Freewater MFCDA decorating contest
- Next BAC meeting: November 29th, 1-4p.
- Christmas Magic Parade: December 1st 6:30-7:30
- The next board meeting is December 18th, 7- 8:30p.

(1:22:08) Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.