



WALLA WALLA BASIN
WATERSHED COUNCIL

WATERSHED WATCH

March 28, 2024 | Q1 Newsletter

Thank you for your votes!

We'd like to give a huge shout out to all the community members who voted for our business in the Milton Freewater "Happy Holiday Outdoor Decorating Contest" during the winter. We are very proud of the work staff did to get our organization in holiday cheer, of our bragging rights that we will be exhibiting through this year, and of the community that we serve.

We are hopeful to compete again in 2024, and we look forward to participating in more community events!



Inside This Issue

- Recognition and thanks to our donors.
- Outreach and Events planned for early 2024.
- Board Meeting Bits.



THANK YOU

Harris Family
SeVein Water Association
John Zerba
Peter Viavant
Ed Chesnut
Catherine Clifton
Larry Widner
Jennifer Miller
Melinda Eden
Darcy Dauble, In Memory Of
Priscilla Jean Dauble
And Our Anonymous Donors

Donor Gifts Still Available

If your donation qualified for one of the gift options that we had available this year, please reach out to Emily.Tilden@WWBW.org. Utilizing data from the donation platform, we have attempted reaching out to a handful of our donors with no response.

“Salmon” Donors

The metal fish sponsors will be receiving formal invitations to the first inaugural “release” of them within our streambed at the office. This will take place during our open house on May 2, 2024. Follow us on social media for more details on this event in the coming weeks!

Valley Giving Guide Thanks And Our Plans for The Future

Thanks to the generous donors, the WWBWC was able to raise \$3,362.40 throughout the month of giving last winter.

At WWBWC, staff work collaboratively to submit grant proposals for funding from government agencies, foundations, and other sources. These funds have historically been the majority of our funding. While we have been able to perform successful project development, monitoring and evaluation programs, and implement multiple restoration projects in the basin with these dollars, these allocated funds are restricted.

Impactful donations, like those made through the Valley Giving Guide, are flexible funds that are still few and far between for our organization. Throughout 2024, our goal is to raise \$27,500 in donated dollars.

Our organization will utilize these funds for things our grant funding is unable to be utilized for such as building our capacity, long-term sustainability of our organization, and education and recharge programs.

Part of our fundraising effort will be kick-started by our staff and board members during this event. We will be announcing more information about this soon on our Facebook and Instagram pages!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Spring Events

- April 2nd- opening date for youth April Art Contest: Color in Our Watershed
- April 13th Family Volunteer Day at Ferndale from 9AM-1PM
- April 26th- closing day for youth art contest
- May 2nd- 30-Year Open House!
- May 16th- Watershed Stewardship Workshop: Water Quality
- May 18th- Return to the River Salmon Festival at Walla Walla Community College
- May 24th- 2024's first Friday Night on Main: *All-American Celebration*

Summer Events

- June 1st- WWBWC Spring projects tour
- June 28th- Friday Night On Main: *Summer Splash*
- July TBD- Watershed Stewardship Workshop: stay tuned for more details!
- July 26th- Friday Night on Main: *Freewater Fiesta*
- August 17th- Watershed Stewardship Workshop: Natural Engineering- BDAs and PALs
- August 23rd- Friday Night on Main: *Back to School Bash*
- September 13th- Friday Night on SOUTH Main: *Art in The Alleys*

TBD Fall Event- RIVERFEST* 30-YEAR CELEBRATION

Or check in with ours to keep up with all the fun activities!

We are working hard with collaborative partners to bring some new and exciting outreach and engagement events to our basin! However, at the time of this newsletter release we won't have a lot of detail finalized for their specifics to be released. What we know for certain is that we're looking forward to bringing them into our area and participating with our community! Our calendar will be updated more frequently than we send out Newsletters, so make sure to check it periodically! Click the link or find it under the "Outreach + Resources" tab on our site. [\[CALENDAR LINK\]](#)

*RiverFest Announcement!

If you haven't yet heard, **we're turning 30 this year!** That's three decades of collaborative work in this basin! We couldn't be more proud of the connections we've made and the projects we've finished—and we look forward to many more years of it! We hope you all celebrate with us at our RiverFest banquet this fall. Exact details are in the process of being hammered out at this time, but we can promise you won't want to miss it. We will undoubtedly have more to share with you about this event in the next

newsletter, and in social media posts and events we hold as the year goes on. If you want to check in on all the newest details as they come, bookmark its page on our website:

<https://wwbwc.org/30yr-celebration>



Board Updates: December - March

During the inaugural meeting, all elected chair members were re-elected for their respective positions:

Chairperson: John Zerba

Vice Chairperson: Vern Rodighiero

Secretary/Treasurer: Ed Chesnut

At the March meeting, Executive Director Troy Baker presented a survey to the board that we plan to utilize to revise and update the WWBWC's Strategic Action Plan, or SAP. This document guides our focus and goals for the work we do in the watershed. It is important to keep a SAP updated with as much feedback from all aspects of our community so that we can most effectively address concerns and best ensure sustainability of our basin going forward. Please take a moment, 10-20 minutes of your day, to share your thoughts with us in this important survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/32PMBJ6>

Join our board meetings in person at our South Main office or via Zoom on the 3rd Mondays of each month at 7pm.

Upcoming Partner Events:



Both events will be held at the Water and Environmental Center at Walla Walla Community College from 5pm-7pm

April 10th- Toxic Weeds for Livestock

April 24th- Water Rights

Learn more [\[here\]](#)

Watershed Stewardship Workshops Update

We had a very successful workshop on March 21st regarding water rights, transactions, and trusts with two phenomenal speakers: Luke Martin, our area's water master with Oregon Water Resources Department, and Sarah Dymecki, senior project manager from non-profit Washington Water Trust.

We would sincerely like to thank everyone who attended—it was so great to see so many members of our community there.

As part of our series of Watershed Stewardship Workshops, funded by OWEB and BPA, we're recording these workshops in order to make these presentations more accessible to the basin. If you missed it, you can watch the presentation [\[here\]](#).

Connect with us!

If viewing on a computer or mobile device, logos are linked. Otherwise find us using our handles for social media, or scan the code to visit our Flip Cause.



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