

**Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
June 16, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Board Members: James Baker, Jeff Catlin, Ed Chesnut, Caty Clifton, Jack Ferrise, Joel Huesby, Steve Irving, Ralph Perkins, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner, and John Zerba

Staff: Michelle McClellan, Luke Adams, Sara Harris, Cat Garza, Eric Hoverson, and Colin Meister

Guest(s): David Gruen (DEQ)

(7:02 PM) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Zerba.

(7:03) Approval of May Meeting Minutes

- The May 19, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed.
 - Motion: Ed Chesnut moved to approve the minutes.
 - Second: Ralph Perkins
 - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

(7:04) Board Vacancies

- Michelle McClellan announced that Ray Williams resigned, leaving agriculture sector seats vacant.
 - The board discussed recruitment strategies. Michelle will update and distribute an open seat list.

(7:10) Guest Presentation – 2024 PSP Data

- David Gruen, Columbia River Coordinator for DEQ, presented pesticide detection results from 2024.
 - Key Points: Only one pesticide (imidacloprid) exceeded EPA aquatic benchmarks (1 detection in 187 samples).
 - PSP monitoring shows a 10+ year downward trend in pesticide detections.
 - David emphasized that Walla Walla Basin is a success story for voluntary stewardship practices.

(7:55) Staff Updates

- Groundwater/Aquifer Recharge
 - Tara Patten's team is preparing a summary of historic efforts and next steps.
- Endowment

- Michelle demonstrated how to make a donation to the WWBWC endowment on the Blue Mountain Community Foundation website.
 - Goal: \$10,000 in 3 years.
- Strategic Action Plan
 - Michelle presented an updated timeline for completing the strategic plan, including partner outreach in September.
 - Next committee meeting will be schedule for late July.
- UBWC Update
 - OWEB declined to fund the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council.
 - WWBWC's support role has concluded.

(8:10) Stream Flow and Snowpack Report

- Luke Adams reported on stream conditions (May 14–June 13):
 - South Fork: 120 CFS
 - North Fork: 11 CFS
 - Couse Creek: 1 CFS
 - Walla Walla River: 140 CFS
 - Mill Creek: 32 CFS
 - Pine Creek: Dry
- Snowpack melted by June 11.
- Streamflow is below median.
- Fire danger high for July-August.

(8:20) Announcements and Closing

- WWW2050 BAC Meeting
 - June 25 at WWCC Water & Environmental Center
- OWEB Board Meeting
 - July 22-23 in Pendleton
- Next WWBWC Board Meeting
 - July 21, tentatively at Marie Dorian Park
 - 6 PM, picnic-style gathering

(8:30 PM) Additional Discussion

- Board members discussed the importance of tracking regional irrigation and water supply projects.
- Emphasis on board participation in outreach and recruitment, and keeping WWBWC involved in basin-wide efforts.

(8:42 PM) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.