

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meeting
September 15, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Board Members: James Baker, Jeff Catlin (Zoom), Ed Chesnut, Katy Clifton, Joel Huesby, Ralph Perkins, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner, John Zerba

Staff: Luke Adams, Graham Banks, Wendy Harris, Sara Harris, Eric Hoverson, Cat Garza (Zoom), Lillian Lowery (Zoom) Tara Patten, Michelle McClellan

Guest(s): Lindsay Cole, Connected Professional Accountants (Zoom)

(7:00 PM) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Zerba.

(7:05) Approval of July Meeting Minutes

- The August 18, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed.
 - Motion: Ed Chesnut moved to approve the minutes.
 - Second: Katy Clifton
 - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

(7:10) Annual Financial Audit Presentation – Lindsay Cole, CPA

- Lindsay Cole of Connected Professional Accountants presented the FY2024 audit report.
 - An unmodified “clean” opinion was issued for the FY2024 financial statements.
 - A single audit was completed due to federal funding exceeding \$750,000.
 - No new accounting principles were adopted during the fiscal year.
 - No material or compliance findings were identified.
 - Net assets increased by \$56,107, and cash increased by \$32,000 for the year.
 - The prior-year (2023) accounts receivable finding was corrected.
- Lindsay commended staff, especially Wendy Harris, for their assistance during the audit process.

(7:30) Stream Flow and Drought Report – Luke Adams

- Luke Adams provided stream flow data (August 13 – September 12):
 - South Fork: 93 CFS
 - North Fork: 6.4 CFS
 - Walla Walla River: 120 CFS
 - Mill Creek: 30 CFS
 - Pine Creek and Couse Creek: Dry
- Water year trends show below-average flows across the basin.

- Climate data indicates persistent drought (D2—Severe) for Walla Walla and Umatilla counties.
- Board discussion included flow management changes and coordination with OWRD.

(8:00) Strategic Discussion – “Expand and Lead”

- Michelle McClellan presented an update on the Strategic Action Plan draft:
 - The 30-page draft will be distributed digitally and by mail for SAP Committee review.
 - Feedback will inform a revised draft, which will then be shared with key partners for their feedback.
- The Board continued the “Expand and Lead” discussion, reviewing a new Google Sheet to track water and watershed issues in the Walla Walla Basin.
 - The document will be used internally to help prioritize projects and clarify WWBWC’s role (Track / Participate / Support / Lead).
 - Board members emphasized capacity, jurisdiction, and partner role considerations.

(8:25) Announcements and Closing

- BAC Implementation Work Group Meeting
 - September 18, 10:00 AM (virtual)
- BAC Policy, Funding, and Outreach Work Group Meeting
 - September 25, 1:00 PM (virtual)
- Wildlife Habitat Field Day
 - October 2, Target Meadows (MF School District 5th graders)
- WWU Volunteer Service Day
 - Moved to Tom Buell Ponds (Upper Dry Creek)
- Next WWBWC Board Meeting
 - October 20, 7:00 PM (hybrid)
- BAC Open House
 - October 21, 4:00 – 8:00 PM (Reid Campus Center, Whitman College)

(8:30 PM) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.