

Walla Walla Watershed Planning Planning Unit

**January 14, 2002
Dayton, WA**

Attending

Betty Walker, Dave Mastin, Gayle Rainwater, Dick Ducharme, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Eric Johnson, Gene Warren, Gordon Heimbigner, Hal Thomas, Jay Lyman, Mark Wagoner, Randy Halley, Randy Mann, Roland Schirman, Steve Martin, Steve Washam, Stuart Durfee, Terry Bruegman, Viki Leuba, Mark Grandstaff, Mark Wachtel, Ben Floyd, Jennifer Gihring

Handouts

- Procedure for Modifying Subcommittee Member Lists
- Grant Applications: Storage, Water Quality, Instream Flow
- Responsibilities of Sub-Committee Co-Chairs
- Organization Chart
- Scope of Work

Minutes from Last Meeting

Official minutes were not recorded at the last meeting.

Scope of Work

- Contract has been signed for this Planning Unit effort & HCP. This scope of work will be included as an addendum to that contract.
- Review of water rights and claims (p. 4) will be budgeted appropriately relative to quality of information
- Estimating Water Usage With Screening Data
 - Establish a subcommittee to work with us for developing baseline water use and making the necessary local contacts to obtain this information.
 - Maintain high level of confidentiality
 - Summarize from WRAT system, & then have the committee “groundtruth” that information.
 - No objections by committee to using screening information to get at water usage by basin as long as confidentiality is maintained.
- Review Instream Flow Needs (p. 5): Add irrigation/agriculture as a separate item in the first sentence list.
- Water Quantity (2.2.1): Consider re-measuring some wells and compare with the early well logs. (may be most appropriate in Level II)

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- Assess Hydraulic Continuity: consider groundwater impairment if groundwater is used to supplement instream flow.
- Habitat: historical timber use and grazing will be included
- Water Quality: 303d listings will be summarized and their accuracy will be addressed.
- Language changes: add language 1) p. 5 Add “irrigated agriculture” where noted above 2) Water Quality: add “evaluate water quality information” 3) p.7 Change “Using the data collected under the pop...” to read “Using the data collected for area population projections and trends...”
- Scope of work approved with these language changes.

Procedure for Modifying Subcommittee Member Lists

- Formal process for changing subcommittee membership and maintaining communication.
- The PU can always change this process if it doesn't work in the future
- Procedure approved with no changes.

Authorizing Expenditure of Public Involvement Funds

- Winter Watershed Confluence occurring this week, organized by WWBWC, City of Walla Walla, and others. Intent is to bring the larger community together to talk about progress in the 2514 process, progress on the WWBWC, progress on BI-State HCP, concerns of residents in an open discussion of water use and planning in the basin.
- EES is contributing \$300. Meeting coordinators have requested \$300 from the Planning Unit to support the confluence.
- Consensus reached not to give \$300 to the Confluence.
- Create a small group for outlining priorities for public involvement funds. Look at budget, bring a recommendation back to the planning unit on how those dollars should be spent. (brochures, newsletters, news releases, website, etc.). For future requests for public involvement dollars are directed to the public involvement group. They then bring a recommendation back to the PU, then the PU can accept or deny it.

Co-Chairs for Planning Unit

- Hal Thomas
- Eric Johnson

Grant Applications

Instream Flow Application

- Written with generic wording to allow flexibility for the Planning Unit, but specific enough so Ecology can obtain measurable results.
- WW County will submit this application on behalf of the involved parties.
- IFIM: Modeling tool is used to give you a picture of what that section of the tributary looks like at different times. Hesitancy in any computer model, because

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many are developed in the Midwest and many are not easily applied to the Northwest.

- IFIM work in Columbia County with WSU. Same concerns that it not be strictly used to establish minimum flows. Intent of IFIM is to identify optimum fish habitat conditions. Not designed to be used to establish instream flows. In Columbia County, IFIM requested that they be listed as optimum flows, not minimum flows.
- Second change: “Meetings will be held by the planning unit”
- Third change: Remove second to last sentence in section 2. (Step A)
- Step 3: Change first sentence: “Field work will begin immediately after funding has been approved by the Department of Ecology.”
- APPROVED WITH THESE CHANGES

Sidenote: Setting of an instream flow requires an EIS. Ecology is developing a generic EIS for instream flows. Viki will bring a copy of the boilerplate to the IF subcommittee to assist in their work.

Multipurpose Water Storage Grant Application

- Digital imagery project currently underway by Walla Walla County.
- Will be doing some flights this spring to complete the whole county.
- Been looking for \$ to off-set some of these costs & will share data with partners.
- Will fly parts of Columbia CO & parts of Oregon as well.
- We will contact Walla Walla County if we get funded.

NOTE: Reintroduction of beaver: consider this in the assessment in the future. Help flow control and trap sediment. May include planting trees that attract beavers.

Water Quality Grant Application

- Make same change to language in 7.2. “fieldwork will begin immediately...”
- # 2. Address that temperature standards may be incorrect. “Review of the temperature criteria.”
- Change “violations” to “deficiencies”
- # 4. Add that Ecology will define TMDLs this season.
- Robert Gordon/Jerry Anderson (Spokane) are the contacts – TMDL established for ammonia on Mill Creek.
- Section 7 Main “Change Walla Walla watershed is not scheduled...” to “Walla Walla watershed is scheduled...”
- 7. 3. Change “Developing Instream Flow Recommendations” to “Developing Water Quality Recommendations”

Priorities

- Average flow in July is 40 cfs for Touchet. January 9, WWR recorded 2500 cfs. Full month of July is ~1200 cfs total. In last week, could have doubled/tripled the summer flow of the river. Saving one day of flow in January, could double flow in July/August if stored.

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- Department of Ecology would like to get some direction from Water Quality Subcommittee for TMDL work.

Grant applications & priorities approved by consensus with the above changes

Action Items

EES: Create glossary of terms & acronym list (from Viki) for committees; finalize and distribute a list of steering committee members; revise by-laws to accommodate member change procedure

Upcoming Meetings

Subcommittees:

Feb 20

3:00; 5:30; 7:00

At the Delaney Building (connected to Library) in Dayton

Planning Unit:

Feb 21

9:30 at DOT buiding in Walla Walla is the BI-State HCP meeting