

**Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit**  
**Meeting Notes**

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**Date:** March 14, 2005

**Time** 5:30 – 9:30PM

**Location:** Washington Dept. of Transportation Conference Room, Walla Walla, WA

**Attendees:** Cathy LaRoque (Walla Walla County Watershed), Fred Bennett (Port of Walla Walla-Commissioner), Mimi Wainwright (DOE), Terra Hegy (WDFW), Mark Wachtel (WDFW), Paul Hartwig (City of College Place), Betty Walker (Landowner Rep Walla Walla/Columbia County), Roland Schirman (Landowner Rep Columbia County), Ben Floyd (HDR/EES), Hal Thomas (City of Walla Walla), Steve Martin (Salmon Recovery Board), Dick Ducharme (Landowner Rep Columbia County), Tom Page (Native Creek Society), Don Howard (Landowner Rep Columbia County), Yancey Reser, Stuart Durfee (Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13), Mark Wagoner (Landowner Rep Walla Walla County/GFID#13), Judith Johnson (Kookooskie Commons), Russ & Kathy Bergevin, Jesse Schwartz (CTUIR), Mark Grandstaff (WDFW), Terry Bruegman (Columbia County Conservation District), Bill Neve (DOE), Jean Dolling, Gene Warren (Landowner Rep Columbia County), Dayle Rainwater (Landowner Rep Columbia County), Greg Farrens (WWCC), Hal Thomas (City of Walla Walla), Mark Wagoner (GFID #13),

**Handouts:** Agenda; February 28, 2005 Planning Unit draft meeting minutes; 3-3-05 Response to Comments Document “Comments Response Rev.1 03-03-05;” Comments by GFID#13; comments by Paul Hartwig, City of College Place; “Proposed Implementation Framework Analyses” from Steve Martin, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board; comments by Dick Ducharme; Public Involvement document.

**Action Items:**

1. Ben Floyd will to update the Response to Comments document to reflect issues discussed, including the NAF limit allocation formula to allow for allocation of flow for environmental benefit.
2. Hal Thomas and Paul Hartwig will discuss issues related to the Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) implementation as described in Section 7-21.

**Housekeeping:**

- Due to the inability of many folks to attend the March 7, 2005 Planning Unit meeting, the 03/07/05 meeting was rescheduled to occur tonight so that agency and Planning Unit members could attend.
- The sign-in sheet was passed around and introductions were made, with attendees on the telephone including Mark Wachtel, Bill Neve, Mimi Wainwright and Tera Hegy.
- The February 28, 2005 draft meeting minutes were distributed and members were asked to review; comments and questions should be directed to Cathy LaRoque by March 21, 2005, after which time the meeting notes will be finalized and considered approved.
- Cathy LaRoque presented HDR/EES contract amendment No. 14 for \$5,001 of WDOE funding for WRIA 32 Watershed Planning to be allocated for final response to comments and SEPA work. Cathy described how these funds were ‘set-aside’ and not contracted to the consultant originally so that in the final stretch of planning we could best evaluate how to utilize these funds. At this time, the County wants to allocate the funds to HDR/EES to fund completion of the Watershed Plan. The Planning Unit members agreed by consensus to recommend the County fund HDR/EES to complete the plan with the remaining \$5,001.
- The TMDL Advisory Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 6pm. See the website [www.wallawallawatershed.org](http://www.wallawallawatershed.org) calendar for details on this meeting.

**Walla Walla Watershed Plan: Review of Comments Received:**

The draft Walla Walla Watershed Plan was distributed for review January 24, with comments accepted through February 21. Comments were reviewed at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting through about Chapter 5 of the plan; then the consultant team noted the recommended resolution of each comment on the “Comments Response Rev.1 03-03-05” document; additional comments and issues have been raised since the 02/28/05 meeting, so Ben Floyd started at the beginning of the Response to Comments document and continued page-by-page with discussion of each comment as needed. The resolution of each comment is noted on the Response to Comments document and will be posted on the website before the next meeting, scheduled for March 28, 2005 at 6pm at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Youth Building. Specific issues discussed included the following:

1. Discussion of MP5a NAF (New Appropriations Flow) ensued, referring to WDFW (Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife) and WDOE (Washington Department of Ecology) input as part of the planning unit process. Planning Unit members urged reconsideration of MP5a NAF; SAR needs to remain viable as an option especially if piping of ditches is to be considered as a good project. Concerns about migration-level flows were discussed, with the need for water in late winter noted for storage as a priority.

Jesse Schwartz (CTUIR) said that he has biological data to show value of higher flows for fish migration and noted that we need to consider many factors (policy, people, and fish) before we set the flow too low and allow more appropriations. He also suggested that we stay conservative and go with higher flows now, then revisit the MP5a in five (5) years.

Common ground among attendees was acknowledged, that no new consumptive water rights are intended to be available. A lower NAF may enable more appropriations, but we still should develop the NAF utilizing a consistent approach (as with other NAFs we considered hydrograph and IFIM). It was also agreed that we need to set NAFS in a manner that allows for some water to be appropriated for environmental benefit projects.

Mimi Wainright said one option would be to extend the closure so that it is from April through November, with an allowance for 60 cfs for environmental benefit during December through March.

Discussion of Tribal needs ensued. The group tried to reach consensus on NAFs at MP5a and preliminary consensus was achieved (Russ Bergevin abstaining) on the following strategy:

Agreed upon a dual use strategy (to benefit fish and water supplies), with a June through November stream closure. After five years, the NAF will be reviewed in coordination with the Planning Unit. WDFW, WDOE and CTUIR will collaborate to recommend a May NAF. The numbers in parentheses represent a limited allocation for environmental enhancement, to be calculated by the formula:

		<b>Environmental Enhancement Allocation</b>	
		<u>daily average limit</u>	
	<b>NAF</b>	median flow	Example (assuming median flow)
Dec	350	(150)	150/350
Jan	350	(150)	150/375
Feb	350	(150)	150/400
Mar	450	(200)	200/466
Apr	450	(200)	200/450
May *	350	(150)	150/265

Ben Floyd will write this up and agreed, on principle, for consideration at the next meeting. Ben asked the agencies to consider the planning unit recommendation and, with respect to all the hard work put in, the agencies agreed to work with the planning unit recommendation and will try to see if it can work for them. \* WDFW, CTUIR, and WDOW will collaborate to recommend May

Fred Bennett identified the need for upland storage to allow for community growth and economic development. More discussion on storage ensued, including identifying the many considerations for storages sites that the USACE/CTUIR feasibility study considered.

This group continued working through the "Response to Comments". Hal Thomas will work with Paul Hartwig to review 7-2.1 regarding the Groundwater Management Area (GWMA).

Other discussion ensued about water rights changes from shallow to deep wells. Review through Section 8 from page 19 comments were received, plus comments by Paul Hartwig, Dick Ducharme, Stuart Durfee (Outreach/Public Involvement Plan). Steve Martin will hand out SRB and implement the framework to be addressed at the March 28, 2005 meeting.

**Other Agenda Items:**

Due to time constraints the Planning Unit was unable to finish going through the list of comments received. So the Planning Unit will reconvene on Monday March 28, 2005 at 6pm at the Walla Walla County Watershed Planning Conference Room to complete the review of comments. Then the Planning Unit will meet on March 28, 2005 in Dayton to review comments and finalize the recommendation to the County Commissioners to adopt the plan.

**Other discussion:**

Cathy LaRoque noted that she will update the website calendar for meeting information. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

**Next Meeting:**

March 28, 2005, 6:00p.m., Dayton