

Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit
Meeting Notes

Date: May 9, 2005

Time 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Washington Dept. of Transportation Conference Room, 1210 G Street, Walla Walla, WA

Attendees: Ben Floyd (HDR/EES), Betty Walker, Bill Neve (Dept. of Ecology), Bob Carson, Bob Hutchens, Cathy LaRoque (Walla Walla County Watershed Planning), Dayle Rainwater, Dick Ducharme, Don Howard, Elena Escalante (Walla Walla County Watershed Planning), Fred Bennett (Port of Walla Walla), Gene Warren, Greg Farrens (WWCC), Hal Thomas (City of Walla Walla), Harmony Paulsen, Janet Howard, Jack Myrick (WWCC), Jean Dolling, Jesse Schwartz (CTUIR), John Warinner (WW Watershed Alliance/Fountainhead Irrigation), Judith Johnson (Kooskooskie Commons, by phone), Kathy Bergevin, Kirk Klicker, Mark Wagoner, Matt Clark (CTUIR), Mike Buckley, Mimi Wainwright (Dept. of Ecology), Paul Hartwig (City of College Place), Randy Halley, Roland Schirman, Russ Bergevin, Steve Martin (Snake River Salmon Recovery), Stuart Durfee (Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13), Tom Page (Native Creek Society), Yancey Reser (Native Creek Society)

Handouts: Agenda; March 28, 2005 Planning Unit Draft Meeting Minutes; draft Participants List to be included in the Final Draft Watershed Plan; draft letter of support for the Salmon Recovery Plan; draft letter to DOE from the Planning Unit for recommended instream flows; draft letter from DOE regarding State Caucus Technical Input for Final Draft Section 6, Walla Walla Watershed Plan; draft letter to Columbia and Walla Walla County Commissioners from Planning Unit for support of Watershed Plan; Response to Comments document (05-05-05) for comments received on the Final Draft Watershed Plan; letter from Jean Dolling commenting on Final Draft Watershed Plan.

Housekeeping:

The draft March 28, 2005 Planning Unit meeting minutes were distributed for review. Comments and questions should be directed to Elena Escalante (eescalante@co.walla-walla.wa.us) by May 13, 2005 after which time the meeting notes will be finalized and approved.

The Planning Unit was asked to review the draft letter of support for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan. The Planning Unit approved by consensus the letter of support. Steve Martin noted that on May 10, 2005 the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board will be meeting in Dayton to review comments received on the Draft Salmon Recovery Plan. The Draft Salmon Recovery Plan was available for review for 30 days, through April 29th.

Walla Walla Watershed Plan: Review of FINAL DRAFT PLAN

Section 6 – Instream Flow Strategy

Cathy LaRoque reviewed the approach that the Instream Flow Subcommittee agreed to on April 18, 2005. A sub-group of the Instream Flow Subcommittee met on April 28th to develop language for the New Appropriation Flows (NAFs) for the Instream Flow Rule. The persons attending this meeting were Dick Ducharme, Matt Clark, Judith Johnson, Cathy LaRoque, and Elena Escalante.

At the April 28th meeting, the group used the Entiat Watershed (WRIA 46) Instream Flow strategy as an example. The possibility of incorporating two flows was examined. The lower instream flow (New Appropriation Flow - NAF) would be set so that any additional water above the NAF would reserved be for beneficial environmental projects such as shallow aquifer recharge. The proposed reserve of water is called "net environmental enhancement storage projects" (NEESP). Water rights to be issued for a NEESP would

require that projects be reviewed by a technical advisory committee prior to issuance. For Management Point 5a (MP 5a), the NAF will be established for a five year period, after which time the instream flow numbers will be reviewed.

For example:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| _____ | 325cfs |
| NEESP Reserve | } 175cfs |
| _____ | 150cfs |
| NAF | |

Discussion ensued regarding the adoption schedule for both the NEESP (reservation) and NAF. It was suggested that the NEESP (reservation flow) be adopted simultaneously with, or immediately after the NAF. It was noted that the NEESP only affects Washington Law, but the projects must be considered on a case-by-case basis. Concern that NAF water not being met as it is being used by Oregon. Cathy LaRoque noted that flows are winter flows.

Ben commented that Washington and Oregon need to coordinate on this issue. Discussion arose regarding the science behind 250cfs and Cathy explained that it was used in IFIM, but that the numbers did not reflect what the fish benefit is. Jesse provided information from CTUIR showing increased fish migration with the higher flows. In five years the NAF will be revisited. A question was asked whether there was enough language to address NAF numbers. Stream and configuration changes were also addressed.

The May 9, 2005 letter from the DOE regarding *State Caucus technical input for final draft section 6, Walla Walla Watershed Plan* was handed out. Cathy noted the language is needed to clarify the desires by state agencies for flows. Mimi suggested that the letter was a placeholder to keep the communication open and what will be used out of recommendation. Mimi noted that one option may be to look at continuing the flow discussion during Phase 4 - Watershed Plan Implementation.

The Planning Unit approved the Instream Flow recommendations.

Comments Document

Cathy reviewed the handout "Comments to Final Draft Watershed Plan (WRIA 32) – May 2005". The Planning Unit approved the changes addressed in the handout.

Continued Review of Final Draft Plan

Land use discussion ensued regarding recommended buffers. It was noted that the Planning Commission is aware of the issue of providing adequate buffers in the Critical Areas Ordinance. This is a topic that will be addressed in the future through updates to the Critical Areas Ordinance and other zoning ordinances.

Q: How often will the Watershed Plan be updated?

A: After three years it will be reviewed by an implementing agency.

Comment: Parts of Chapter 12 have not identified implementation. Mimi noted that counties often tie this Growth Management Act (GMA) updates. Cathy said that will likely be based on funding.

Discussion ensued regarding coordinating the Watershed Planning process with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process facilitated by DOE. Planning Unit members were encouraged to attend and

participate in the TMDL Advisory Committee meetings. The Planning Unit members that currently attend the TMDL advisory committee would like more Planning Unit input into the process and seek support.

Cathy reviewed participants list sheet (names and entities) since it will be included in the plan. This document was passed around for review and corrections were to be made if needed.

Cathy discussed the next steps for the Watershed Plan adoption. The next steps include holding required public hearings in both Columbia and Walla Walla counties, with a joint session of Columbia and Walla Walla County Commissioners to be held in late June 2005 to consider approving the plan. Once approved by the both County Commissioners the plan is submitted to Department of Ecology.

Planning Unit voting members present approved submittal of the Watershed Plan to Columbia and Walla Walla County Commissioners for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.