

**Walla Walla Watershed WRIA 32 Planning Unit**  
**Planning Unit Meeting**  
**Meeting Notes**

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**Date:** September 24, 2007

**Time:** 6:30PM–9:00PM

**Location:** WSDOT Conference Room 1210 G Street, Walla Walla, WA

**Attendees:** Bob Carson (Walla Walla County Citizen), Cathy Schaeffer (WW County Watershed Planning), Dan Siemann (Consultant), David Karl (Washington Department Fish Wildlife), Don Howard (Columbia County Citizen), Greg Farrens (Walla Walla County Citizen), Hal Thomas (City of Walla Walla, Co-Chair), Harmony Paulsen (Walla Walla County Citizen), Janet Howard (Columbia County Citizen), Jennifer Hudson (CTUIR), Kathy Bergevin (Walla Walla County Citizen), Kevin Scribner (WW Watershed Alliance), Matt Rajnus (WW County Watershed Planning), Mimi Wainwright (WDOE), Paul Hartwig (City of College Place), Randal Son (Many Waters Community Development), Roland Schirman (Columbia County Citizen), Steve Martin (Snake River Salmon Recovery Board), Yancey Reser (Walla Walla County Citizen), Bob Hutchens (Columbia County Citizen), Chris Hyland (USACE), Fred Bennett (Walla Walla County Citizen), Jaime Clarke (WWCC Water and Environmental Center), Kristi Scherger (WW County Watershed Planning), Mark Wagoner (Walla Walla County Citizen), Randy Halley (Walla Walla County Citizen), Russ Bergevin (Walla Walla County Citizen), Kevin Lindsey (GSI Water Solutions).

**Handouts:** Agenda; prior draft meeting minutes (July 23, 2007); Preliminary Report of Assessment for Developing a Shared Governance Mechanism in the Walla Walla Basin.

**Action Items:**

- Planning Unit directed County Staff to narrow down a preliminary list of four or five previously partially funded projects that could use additional funding from the Ecology Phase IV Year Two grant. A one paragraph summary of the chosen project will prepared for the Planning Unit to review on October 22, 2007. Any recommendations for projects should be given to Matt Rajnus prior to October 10, 2007. County staff will also send out the preliminary list prior to October 22, 2007.

**Housekeeping:** Introductions were made and a quorum of Planning Unit voting members was identified. The previous meeting minutes (July 23, 2007) were reviewed and the sign-in sheet was passed around. Comments on these meeting minutes should be emailed to Kristi Scherger, [kscherger@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:kscherger@co.walla-walla.wa.us) by October 8, 2007 after which time the minutes will be considered final.

**Instream Flow Rule Update:** The WAC 173-532 Rule was signed August 3, 2007 and went into effect September 5, 2007. Walla Walla County, Department of Ecology and the Planning Unit partnered to co-host two Workshops / Community Meetings that were held September 19 and 20, 2007. The Community meeting primarily focused on new exempt well use and opened with a welcome by Walla Walla County Commissioner Tompkins. Several displays were showcased and identified project resources and entities working in the watershed.

**Walla Walla Watershed Alliance, Walla Walla County Watershed Planning, WWCC:** Walla Walla County entered into an interlocal agreement with WWCC to have Cathy Schaeffer serve as the Walla Walla Watershed Alliance director through June 30, 2008.

**Water and Environmental Center Activities:** Walla Walla County Watershed Planning will be moving shortly to the WWCC Water and Environmental Center and it will present a cost savings over P.U. meeting notes 09-24-07.doc

the term of the agreement (initially identified for the period October 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009). An email, web site update and possibly a mailing will be prepared to alert everyone of the move. If anyone has questions during this transition time, please call Cathy Schaeffer at 509.524.2648. The grand opening of the Water and Environmental Center will be celebrated by a dedication ceremony to be held on October 12, 2007 on the Walla Walla Community College Campus at 500 Tausick Way, Walla Walla at 1pm. The event will commence with distinguished speakers and conclude with a ribbon cutting.

**Columbia River Water Management Program Update (CRWMP) proposals:** Cathy Schaeffer has been participating within the Policy Advisory Group and the County Commissioners Forum. The next meeting will be held on October 24, 2007 in Yakima and a presentation on Walla Walla collaboration efforts will be given at that meeting. In October 2007, Ecology will begin accepting pre-applications for Columbia River Basin Water Management Grants. The final applications (not the pre-applications) will need a letter of support from the Planning Unit prior to submittal to DOE, as such the PU was notified that they will be asked to review and possibly send letters of support prior to the March 2008 application deadline. Successful applicants will be awarded grants funded by Ecology's CRWMP account in July 2009. The grants will fund a variety of conservation and storage projects, including:

- Conservation infrastructure ("pumps and pipes")
- Surface Storage
- Aquifer Storage
- Pump Exchange Projects
- Feasibility Studies
- Operations and Maintenance (annually funded)

Pre-applications will be accepted from October 1 through November 30, 2007. The pre-application will be used to screen-out projects that do not meet eligibility criteria including:

- a valid water right must exist if construction funding is requested (a water right is not required for feasibility studies);
- water right must be "trustable" for conservation projects;
- project must be consistent with adopted watershed plans.

For additional information on obtaining an application, access the Ecology website: [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr\\_grants.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_grants.html). Matt Rajnus is also available to answer questions and will bring information back to the Planning Unit meeting on October 22, 2007.

**Ecology Budget for 2007-2009 Watershed Planning:** Back in May 2007, proposals were developed and submitted in June 2007 to Ecology for the 2007-2009 Watershed Plan Implementation funding. Ecology expected to have funding decisions made in the Summer of 2007, but additional considerations by Ecology staff working in conjunction with WDFW has led to delays in identifying and funding projects. Operating budget proposals are nearing contract completion, including the WRIA 32 gauges, Touchet Smolt trap and coordination funding for Walla Walla projects. The following is an update on the capital budget funding process to date:

- Fish Hydro Monitoring \$311,000 proposed, 70% (\$215,000) funded
- Surface Ground Watering \$625,000 proposed, 70% (\$435,000) funded
- Tentatively the existing Shallow Aquifer Recharge projects will be funded
- Funding does not look favorable for the Piping/Lining proposal

**Update on the Shallow Aquifer Recharge:** Kevin Lindsey, lead consultant from GSI Solutions presented a Power Point Presentation titled "Locher Road and Hall-Wentland SAR sites, 2007 Update". The presentation encompassed the locations, on site work to-date, 2006-2007 recharge season activities and next steps as proposed for future funding.

**Update on Phase IV Project:** One of the Phase IV Year Two projects identified for funding in 2007 was completion of the Gose Street passage project; but the project sponsor (Walla Walla County Conservation District) has now identified that the funding is not to be used this year and that they will seek a different source of funds to complete the project next year. The Conservation District cited problems getting a contractor and the costs of materials escalating as the reason for not completing the project now. Cathy Schaeffer summarized one year ago, an RFP was offered for Phase IV Year Two projects and Gose Street was allocated funds, with contracts finalized in August 2007. Due to the funding timeframe, any money unspent in Fiscal Year 2008 may not be available for use in Fiscal Year 2009. Matt Rajnus presented two options on moving forward. Mimi Wainwright advised the Planning Unit to not hold on to the funding and suggested that the unexpended money may be used on another project. It was proposed that the Planning Unit direct the staff to narrow down a short-list of four or five previously proposed projects that could use additional funding; the source of projects will be unfunded Phase IV Year Two applications and the Ecology 2007-2009 project applications. A summary of the short-list projects will be prepared for the Planning Unit to review on October 22, 2007. The voting members agreed by consensus to the proposed short-list approach. The group was directed to provide recommendations for projects to Matt Rajnus prior to October 10, 2007, so staff can prepare the short-list for distribution prior to the October 22, 2007 Planning Unit meeting.

**Watershed Plan Integration / Water Management Initiate (WMI Level 2):** Cathy Schaeffer stated that the final copy of the "Managing Many Waters" report has been posted on the Walla Walla County Watershed Planning website and Planning Unit members received a hard copy in the mail in August 2007. The next steps being taken include working with Dan Siemann to identify how the organizational structure can be improved and there will be a meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2007, 9:00am-12:30pm at the Walla Walla Community College. Entities consulted are listed on a four page report entitled "Preliminary Report of Assessment for Developing a Shared Governance Mechanism in the Walla Walla Basin". The point of this meeting is to go from analysis to discussion and action by bringing folks together who coordinate water and fish activities to develop a stronger voice, a "shared governance" structure. Dan Siemann explained the overlap between several agencies and subsequent administrative costs and confusion on priorities. Action needs to be taken to clarify priorities where goals can be achieved more efficiently. A couple of volunteers of the Planning Unit were asked to be represented at this meeting. No one volunteered and Cathy noted that co-chairs Eric Myers and Hal Thomas are both invited to attend.

**Update on the CTUIR/USACE Flow Enhancement Feasibility Study:** Chris Hyland, USACE Project Manager and Jennifer Hudson, CTUIR Project Policy Analyst presented a Power Point Presentation entitled "Walla Walla River Basin Flow Enhancement Feasibility Study". The presentation included the problem statement, costs of the studies, storage options, water exchange, irrigation efficiency options, water right acquisition, shallow aquifer recharge and implementation. The next steps for this process will be to complete the alternatives in early 2008 and develop the environmental impact statement in 2008 for the alternatives.

**Other Agenda Items:**

Upcoming meeting dates and events were presented:

September 26, 2007, 7:00pm-9:00pm, TMDL/Water Quality Subcommittee

October 12, 2007, 1:00pm, Water and Environmental Center Dedication

October 22, 2007, 6:30pm-9:00pm, Planning Unit meeting, Dayton

November 26, 2007, 6:30pm-9:00pm, Planning Unit meeting, Walla Walla

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.