

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

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**Date:** September 27, 2004

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Delaney Library Building, 111 South Third Street, Dayton, WA

**Attendees:** Bob Hutchens, Chris Hyland (USACE), Kirk Klicker, Randy Halley, Rick Jones (WW Conservation District), Roland Schirman, Ben Floyd (EES), Chad Fisher (WDOE), Gene Warren, Mark Wagoner, Stuart Durfee (Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13), Tom Schirm (WDFW), Yancey Reser (Native Creek Society), Victoria Leuba (WDOE), Matt Clark (CTUIR), Tom Page (Native Creek Society), Brian Burns (Tri State Steelheaders), Judith Johnson (Kooskooskie Commons).

**Handouts:** Agenda; June 28, 2004 Planning Unit meeting minutes; Draft Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Fix-it Loop Schedule; Draft Joint Statement of Work for the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Fix-it Loop.

**Summary of Action Items:**

1. Cathy LaRoque will go to the initiating governments for feedback on support of the submittal of the Subbasin Plan fix-it addendum (letter of endorsement or silence, deferring to the Planning Unit's endorsement).

**Housekeeping:**

- The sign-in sheet was passed around and introductions were made. June 28, 2004 Planning Unit meeting minutes were reviewed and it was noted that the due date for the watershed plan is June 2005 (or December 2004, depending on Ecology's contract requirements). We are aiming to complete it by June 2005. The changes will be made and the meeting notes are considered approved with this change, and will be posted on the Walla Walla County Watershed Planning website at <http://www.wallawallawatershed.org>.

**USACE/CTUIR Feasibility Study:**

Chris Hyland (USACE) and Matt Clark (CTUIR) presented a powerpoint on the Flow Enhancement Feasibility Study. Matt discussed the preliminary results being generated from the feasibility study. The goals are to develop spring flows to push out juveniles and help Spring Chinook come up. Also a goal is summer flows for rearing and extending rearing downstream. The options explored in the study include:

- Off Channel storage reservoir
- Water Exchange
- Irrigation efficiency/conservation, including Shallow Aquifer Recharge component
- Water Rights acquisition with willing sellers.

The study identified 45 sites for storage and after fisheries criteria were applied, 23 sites remained. After cumulative consideration (hydrology, location, size and cost), two sites remained in the Pine Creek drainage in Oregon. Using Pine Creek flows and diverting winter flows from the Walla Walla, the reservoir would pump water both ways (to-and-from the dam). There are other issues being addressed, with constraints on using water (structural, ecological, downstream water users and other users for mainstem winter flows). Also discussed the other options, including work to be completed.

Question: How many acre feet of water did the Umatilla project generate and how high of a lift was required? Matt wasn't sure, but he thinks the 25-75 ft lift. He will check on the acre feet quantity of water.

Question: Is there a date to determine feasibility? By Christmas, the study will be able to identify if it is geologically possible from an engineering standpoint. Then the economic analysis will proceed. They've already spoken with six landowners and received entry permission, so landowners are on board at least to this point. The reservoir structure would be an earthen dam instead of a concrete structure due to geology. Matt Clark and Chris Hyland said they would keep the Planning Unit informed as the study progresses.

**Walla Walla Subbasin Planning (Northwest Power and Conservation Council [NPCC] Comments and Workplan to address comments)**

Cathy LaRoque reviewed the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan fix-it loop process. Cathy noted that since the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan was submitted on May 28, 2004, the Subbasin Planning Team (SPT) presented the plan in July 2004 to the NPCC Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP). The SPT is open to anyone, but has typically included: Cathy LaRoque; Brian Wolcott (Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council [WWBWC]); consultant team members John Marsh and Ben Floyd; CTUIR technical team members Gary James, Jesse Schwartz, and others; WDFW technical team members Mark Wachtel, Glen Mendel, John Andrews, Paul Ashley and others; ODFW technical team members Tim Bailey and others; and other agency and planning group members.

Cathy met with the City of Walla Walla a few times over the summer months and through those discussions, achieved resolution of some issues of concern raised by the City of Walla Walla. Eleven comments were submitted by agencies and citizens to the NPCC by the August 12, 2004 deadline; and although those comments are currently only available in hard copy, Cathy will try to get the comments in electronic format and posted on the website for Planning Unit review.

The timeline for the fix-it loop was discussed and Cathy presented the tasks that will be completed, noting that the NPCC contract documents are forthcoming. The discussion about seeking approval of the final product in November 2004 included comments on how to include the initiating governments. A comment was made that the Counties could rely on the Planning Unit to make the final approval, but a decision for deference to the Planning Unit should be made by the County Commissioners. Cathy will go to the initiating governments and get their feedback on how they want to support (letter of endorsement or silence, deferring to the Planning Unit's endorsement) the submittal of the Subbasin Plan fix-it addendum.

For the public participation element of the Subbasin Planning fix-it loop, the first of two joint meetings with the WWBWC will occur on October 18, 2004 in Milton Freewater at 7pm to review the draft addendum package. The draft document will number about 30 or 40 pages and will be distributed in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can have the opportunity for review. Planning Unit members agreed to attend the joint meeting even though it was in Milton Freewater and that would be a greater travel distance. The final public meeting will likely be either November 16 or 17, to be determined by the Planning Unit.

The final addendum package will be submitted to the NPCC by November 26, 2004. Controversial issues addressed in the May 28<sup>th</sup> version will not be changed or revisited due to the time limitation, including such issues as land acquisition.

#### **Information Updates:**

*Outreach:* Judith Johnson reviewed recent and ongoing outreach efforts, including the Salmon Walk and Fall Festival of the River. Judith noted that at the Fall Festival, over 20 volunteers from 10 organizations participated in providing education, outreach and a raffle.

#### **Other Items/Next Steps:**

Cathy LaRoque noted that coming up on November 16, 2004, the WSU sponsored Video Conference on Watershed Planning participation will air at the local WSU Cooperative Extension offices. Cathy and Brian Wolcott will be on the live teleconference from Pullman.

Coming up on October 22, 2004, the Eastern Washington County Commissioners will be meeting for a second time with WDOE staff and directors to discuss watershed planning. This meeting will be in Moses Lake and at the first meeting in July, planning unit members from other areas were in attendance.

The next Instream Flow/Quantity Subcommittee meeting will be on November 9, 2004 at 1pm in Walla Walla. Subcommittee meetings for Water Quality and Habitat will be scheduled to occur before the end of the year. The next Planning Unit meeting will be held on November 29, 2004 at 7pm in Walla Walla.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.