

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

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**Date:** September 30, 2002

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** 1210 G. Street (DOT Bldg) in Walla Walla

Housekeeping Items

- ✓ Reviewed and Approved 6/10 Meeting Notes

Review Planning Process

Reviewed Level 1 Assessment/Special Celebration

- Technical Findings – EES presented a summary of the Level 1 assessment report findings and also handed out a draft executive summary of the assessment report. The entire report will be made available on the PU website later in the week.
- Process Lessons Learned – Hal Thomas discussed some of the procedural items learned.

SEPA Scoping Comments

SEPA scoping comments were requested and the following comment was provided:

David Corbett, regarding a problem with Mud Creek going dry about two months ago, made comment. Mr. Corbett has a water right from Mud Creek in Walla Walla County. To find out more about why this happened and what he can do about it, David has communicated with Ecology, WDFW, Irrigation Districts, and other local landowners. David believes that Mud Creek running dry is an indirect impact of irrigation district conservation improvements made in the last year.

David said that not only does the lack of water eliminate his ability to irrigate, but also affects wildlife, trees, turtles, and wetlands on his property. Although the nearby Little Walla Walla River is now starting to flow again after going dry in July, David thinks the diversions and third party impacts of other water users is causing these problems.

David notes that it seems inequitable that as he conducts his business, he's been required to comply with many regulations (SEPA, shorelines management, studies to protect critical areas) and there is always somebody there to oversee his activities. Very soon, David would like to see the water flowing in Mud Creek.

Comment made by:  
David Corbett  
3855 Froghollow Rd  
Touchet-Lowden, WA 99360

The following individual concurred with the comments made by Mr. Corbett

Tom Maycumber  
219 Rainville Rd  
Touchet, WA 99360

### Initiate Phase 3 – Developing Your Plan

Each planning unit member identified 1 to 3 planning objectives (or actions) to be addressed in the watershed plan. These are provided below:

#### **Your Watershed Plan Expectations**

- ✓ Fair & equitable process for distributing water in the watershed
- ✓ Implementation is driven by voluntary & incentives
- ✓ Establish water brokerage market
- ✓ Benefits for efficiencies
- ✓ Develop water market for conserved water so water right holders can finance own efficiencies
- ✓ Make water transfers easier
- ✓ Drill wells-pump into streams (those who benefit pay pumping costs)
- ✓ Money to projects-during plan development
- ✓ Adult to smolt ratio for Basin, by reach/tributaries
- ✓ ID productive areas, and map what ESA fish (salmonids) need by reach water, flow, temperature, by season relative to entire basin
- ✓ Fill data gaps (see two previous bullets)
- ✓ Protect the existing economy associated with the hydrology of the Basin
- ✓ Documented evidence that econ. Impact is positive to all segments of community
- ✓ Plan bottom up from citizens
- ✓ Elucidate the connections between ground water and surface water flows including definition of areas for and techniques to assure adequate recharge of both shallow and deep basalt aquifers in the Walla Walla Basin
- ✓ Establish an-ongoing public education and outreach plan to ensure individual citizen and corporate responsibility for water conservation and public support for long-term funding of watershed restoration
- ✓ Establish a funding plan to implement long-term monitoring and evaluation of watershed restoration activities.
- ✓ Educate on water conservation (for all types of uses)
- ✓ Get money for early actions
- ✓ Stable implement/monitoring funding source
- ✓ Money-How much, where, sources for

- ✓ Grant to develop stormwater gravel recharge pilot – reward those who recharge gravel aquifer with stormwater
- ✓ Modify “use it or lose it” to improve water code flexibility in managing/using water rights
- ✓ Identify and develop implementation strategies for human & natural system needs
- ✓ Regulatory agency buy-in & commitment to cooperate
- ✓ Assure that proposed water quality studies are reasonable & achievable
- ✓ Instream/riparian habitat
- ✓ Degraded channels & flows – return to natural conditions (and need less water) where appropriate
- ✓ Enhance the upper portions of watershed
- ✓ Plan for achieving fish flows
- ✓ Foster more efficient/effective use of seasonal high water flows
- ✓ Improve unaccounted for water rate
- ✓ Plan to manage surface water to allow it to remain longer within Basin (ref. Steve Martin-Habitat)
- ✓ Restore springs & small streams: Stone, Doan, McEvoy, Walsh, Little Walla Walla, Mud
- ✓ Offstream storage: from Mill Creek & divert to Dry Creek for offstream reservoir
- ✓ Seriously evaluate storage options (capture spring flows – season)
- ✓ Look at “natural” storage – e.g., beavers (dams)
- ✓ Determine ET and how much can be captured by efficiencies, and find out where unaccounted for water in the water balance is going (237,215 AF per year)
- ✓ Make instream flow recommendations to Ecology for those 11 rivers and streams identified by Kuttel in the Assessment as having inadequate flow for salmonids (Patit, Robinson Fork, S. Fork Touchet, Whiskey, Coppei, Dry, Mill Creek, Yellowhawk, Stone, Cottonwood and Walla Walla). These recommendations should be based on existing studies identified in Section 4 of the Assessment and additional scientifically acceptable studies with a goal of adequate flows for steelhead and bull trout recovery
- ✓ To establish a plan for achieving recommended flows (assuming Ecology’s rulemaking results in those flows being established by rule), and a funding plan to ensure achieving those flows, including monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of restoration activities
- ✓ Plan to revegetate burns and unused ground
- ✓ Protect existing water rights & private property (applies Basin-wide)
- ✓ Protect ag practices, and new practices, including conservation
- ✓ Flow for ag
- ✓ Hold all accountable for practices – don’t focus only on agriculture practices that impact water quality, but also off-road vehicles (ORVs), homeowners and other practices
- ✓ Improve irrigation technology-e.g. xeriscape
- ✓ Ensure sufficient ground and surface water resources to support municipal and industrial uses in the valley
- ✓ Allow excess flows through city hydropower facility in winter months/periods of high flow so water can be stored in aquifer and use revenue as a funding source for habitat/riparian restoration
- ✓ Provide enough water for fish at the right times of year for every creek that historically had fish, with temperature as low as feasible, and water quality safe for swimming