



**Draft Meeting Summary**  
 Tuesday, March 31, 2020 | 1:00 – 4:00 p.m  
 Online Only Meeting | [Zoom](#)

Agenda:

Time*	Agenda Item (Action items are marked with "!")	Objective & Reference Materials*	Presenter(s)
1:00 (15 mins)	<b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Review Accomplishments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome by Judith Johnson and Tom Tebb</li> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Review agenda</li> <li>Review of accomplishments</li> </ul>	<b>Information</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Draft list of accomplishments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Tebb, Ecology</li> <li>Judith Johnson, WWWMP</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
1:15* (40 mins)	<b>Organizational Structure for the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee (SPAC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize membership</li> <li>Discuss next steps</li> </ul>	<b>Information, Discussion</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion Guide: SPAC</li> </ul>	Facilitated discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
1:55* (50 mins)	<b>WWW 2050 Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of proposed process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Group Roles</li> <li>Public Workshops</li> <li>Sub-Basin Input</li> </ul> </li> <li>Initial reactions/discussion</li> <li>Next Steps</li> </ul>	<b>Information, Discussion</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Strategic Plan Outline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angela Pietschmann, Cascadia Consulting</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
2:45*	<b>10 MINUTE BREAK</b>		
2:55* (45 mins)	<b>Working Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize list of Working Groups</li> <li>Membership</li> <li>Next steps</li> </ul>	<b>Information</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion Guide: Working Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brook Beeler, Ecology (with support from Judith Johnson &amp; Anton Chiono)</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
3:40* (15 mins)	<b>Updates and Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action items</li> <li>Updates/announcements</li> <li>Upcoming meetings               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPAC, Working Groups</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Information, Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
3:55*	<b>Closing Remarks</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Tebb, Ecology</li> <li>Judith Johnson, WWWMP</li> </ul>

\*All reference materials are included in the [Meeting Packet](#).

### Welcome, Introductions & Review Accomplishments

Tom Tebb, WA Department of Ecology, and Judith Johnson, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, convened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Tom reviewed the accomplishments to date, emphasizing that a solid foundation has been built for the next stage in the process.

Susan Gulick, Facilitator, introduced Gretchen Muller as the Project Manager for the Cascadia Consultant Team, which includes Cascadia Consulting Group, Sound Resolutions, AMP Insights, and Northwest Land and Water.

Susan led roll call and attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent. See **Appendix A** for attendance.

### Organizational Structure for the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee (SPAC)

Susan reviewed the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee (SPAC) Discussion Guide. The SPAC will consist of 15 members in six different interest groups. The expectation is that the SPAC will operate by full consensus and not by majority voting so there are not concerns about groups being “out-voted” or interests being ignored.

Each interest group self-selected SPAC members who are committed to a consensus-based process, who will communicate and seek feedback with members of their interest group, and represent diverse perspectives of that group. The proposed SPAC membership is as follows:

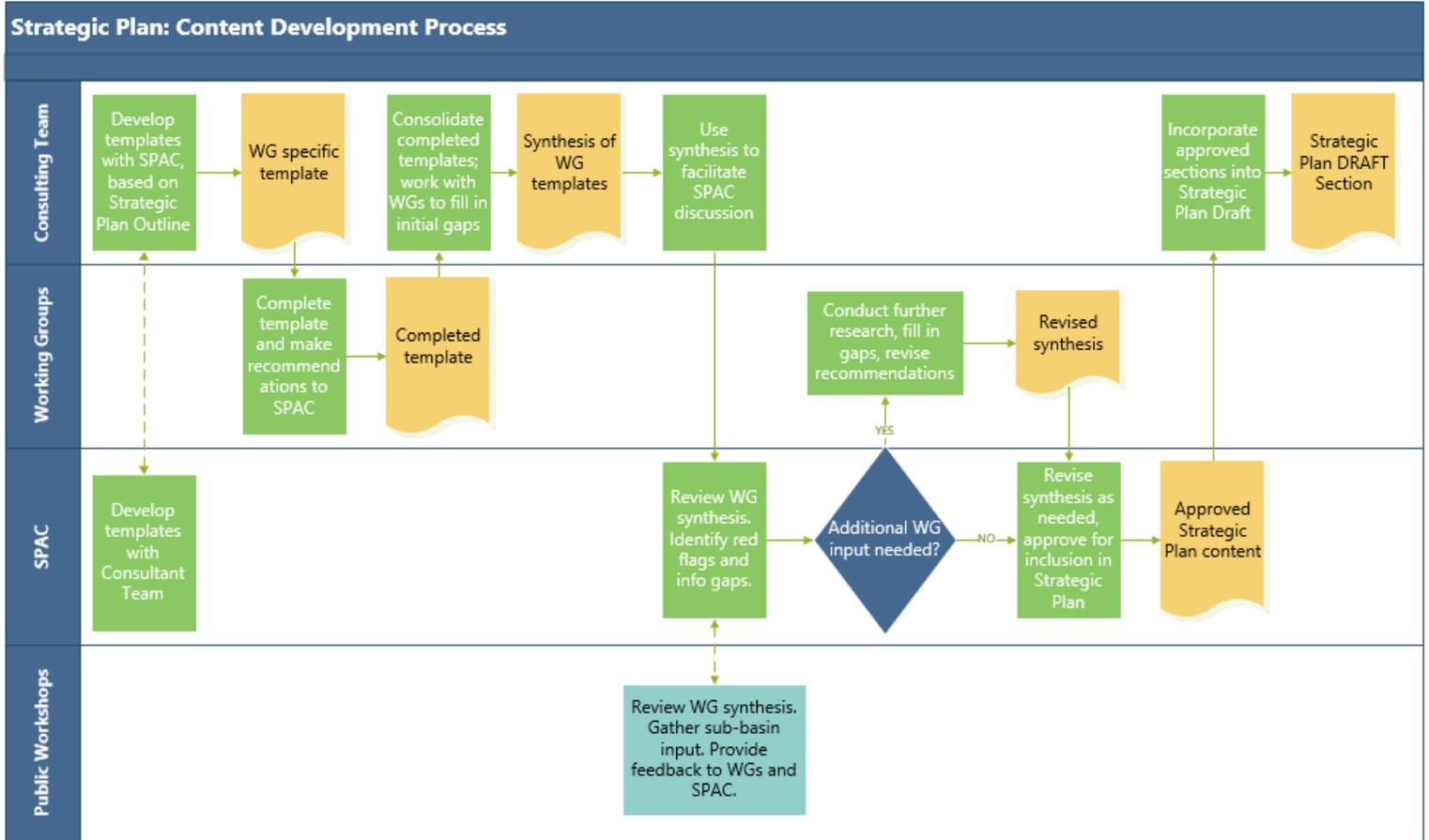
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teresa Kilmer (WWRID)</li> <li>• Allison Newhouse (OR Irrigation at-large)</li> <li>• Annie Byerley (WA Irrigation at-large)</li> <li>• Mark Wagonner (GFD No. 13)</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Adams (WWT)</li> <li>• Brian Walcott / Ralph Perkins (WWBWC)</li> </ul>
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Talbott (Columbia Co.)</li> <li>• Todd Kimball (Walla Walla Co.)</li> <li>• John Shafer (Umatilla Co.)</li> <li>• Steve Patten (City of Milton-Freewater)</li> </ul>
State Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Wachtel (WA DFW)</li> <li>• Chris Kowitz (OR WRD)</li> </ul>
Tribal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Marks (CTUIR)</li> </ul>
Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dale Bambrick (NOAA)</li> <li>• Cindy Boen (USACE)</li> </ul>

#### Discussion:

- An attendee asked about the balance between paid staff and volunteers as the current SPAC has only two people volunteering.
  - Four of the six interest groups are government. Agency personnel will join the SPAC as a part of their job responsibilities. The agriculture and environmental interest groups self-selected members to join the SPAC.
  - This process will be adaptive—if we feel we’re missing a representative interest group or of the Basin, we can adaptively manage. Additionally, there will be ongoing opportunities for broader public input.
  - Ecology will continue putting meeting information on their [website](#).
- Attendees recommended including members of higher education institutions in the SPAC to connect with the best available research and science, as well as speak to the interests of these institutions.
  - There has been ongoing involvement from WSU, Whitman College, Walla Walla Community College, and University of Washington Climate Impacts Group in past workshops.
  - Additionally, there are plans to engage higher education technical expertise in the working groups.
    - Ecology emphasized that we will need a lot of input from working groups to drive the strategic plan.
  - The SPAC will discuss how higher education may fit into the interest groups and whether to include members from higher education in its committee makeup.
- Attendees asked about the timeline of the plan and whether it’s shifted due to COVID-19.
  - Under the current timeline, the strategic plan will be finalized and submitted by June 2021.
  - Ecology recommends continuing to make progress on the plan to the extent we are able with social distancing and on-line meeting platforms as needed.
  - Ecology is receiving additional guidance from Governor Inslee’s office and the Office of Financial Management and will provide updates as they are available.
- Attendees agreed to the proposed plan for the SPAC.
  - The facilitation team will be in touch soon to begin scheduling and planning future SPAC meetings on a recurring schedule.
  - The meetings will be remote/on-line to start.
  - There will be plenty of additional engagement opportunities for those who are not a part of the SPAC.

## WWW 2050 Strategic Plan

Angela Pietschmann, Cascadia Consulting Group, reviewed the proposed Strategic Plan development process. Angela presented the Strategic Plan: Content Development Process to describe the roles of different entities:



### Description of Proposed Process:

- The consulting team intends to develop templates for the working groups (WGs) based on the strategic plan outline. The templates will be tailored to specific WGs to build out content for specific subject areas.
  - These templates will be consistent enough across WGs to build a cohesive report, but specific enough so that we're capturing the key information for inclusion in the strategic plan.
  - Each WG may work on a different timeline and frequency. Key milestones and checkpoints will be lined up with the SPAC.
- The WGs will complete the templates and make recommendations for the SPAC.
- The consulting team will consolidate templates into draft report content and work with WGs to fill in gaps.
  - The synthesis of WG templates will be used to facilitate discussions with the SPAC.
- The SPAC will review the synthesis, identify red flags and any information gaps.
- There will be opportunities for the public to review the WG synthesis and provide feedback to WGs and SPAC through quarterly public workshops.
  - At the public workshops, there will be opportunity to gather sub-basin specific input.
  - Following the public workshops, if additional WG input is needed, WGs will conduct further research to fill in data gaps and revise recommendations.
- The SPAC will revise as needed to ensure language is approvable and achieves consensus.
- Approved content will be incorporated into the strategic plan.

### Draft Strategic Plan Outline:

Angela offered a new Draft Strategic Plan Outline. This outline merges a generic plan outline with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) suggested outline. The plan is broken up into three main sections: Introduction; Strategies to Achieve Desired Future Conditions; and Recommendations.

Angela posed several questions to the group to discuss options for the strategic plan moving forward, including:

- Who are the primary/secondary audiences for plan? E.g. public facing vs decision maker.
- What format will we use to present information? E.g. digital/interactive vs traditional hardcopy.
- What level of detail will we include? E.g. Plan vs appendices?
- Here are examples of past strategic plans developed by Cascadia Consulting Group:
  - [Southern Resident Orca Task Force](#)
  - [WA Wildland Fire Protection 10-year Strategic Plan](#)

**Discussion:**

- One attendee cautioned against the subbasin approach as it splits the content too fine.
  - The WGs are divided by topic area—not subbasin. The intention of the quarterly public workshops is to provide the opportunity to look at the plan content from a place-based perspective.
- An attendee asked about the timeline for drafting the strategic plan.
  - Provide draft plan components for the report to the legislature in November. The report to the legislature will include the Partnership's accomplishments, results of the financial & performance audits, and updates on the bi-state flow study, and the USGS groundwater study.
  - See the [Gantt chart](#) for a detailed timeline.
- Tom Tebb suggested that the strategic plan contains an executive summary that's focused towards decision makers, and that the larger report is geared towards the public.
- One attendee noted that there's quite a few mentions of sustainable agriculture in the draft outline and recommended also including concepts of economically viable and adaptable agriculture in the outline.

**Working Groups**

Brook Beeler, Ecology, provided an overview of the proposed Working Group structure. The bulk of the strategic plan content will be developed through the six WGs. The six proposed WGs and associated topics are as follows:

<p><b>Water supply needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic – municipal and permit-exempt</li> <li>• Industrial/commercial</li> <li>• Irrigated agriculture</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ecological function</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish and wildlife</li> <li>• Instream flow</li> <li>• Riparian</li> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality</li> </ul>	<p><b>Land use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland management, dryland agriculture, and forests</li> <li>• Urban planning and zoning</li> <li>• Rural planning and zoning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASR and MAR</li> <li>• Storage, piping, flood control</li> <li>• Source swap</li> <li>• Floodplain / riparian restoration</li> <li>• Wetland enhancement</li> <li>• Fish passage and screening</li> <li>• Water banking / trust water / mitigation</li> <li>• Conservation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Studies, monitoring, data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water rights evaluation</li> <li>• Bi-state flow study</li> <li>• Touchet River habitat assessment</li> <li>• USGS bi-state groundwater study</li> <li>• Water supply &amp; availability (forecasting)</li> <li>• Surface / groundwater interactions</li> <li>• Infrastructure inventory and gap analysis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Administrative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory framework</li> <li>• Financial structure and funding mechanisms</li> <li>• Public engagement</li> <li>• Adjacent processes, (Tri-Sovereign talks, Mill Creek GI)</li> </ul>

All WGs will consider climate impacts, water timing/flood control, economic impact, recreation, and livability.

**Expectations of Working Groups:**

- WGs will be provided with specific assignments to provide information to the Strategic Plan.

- For example, initial assignments may include identification of existing data and ongoing work on specific topics, descriptions of current conditions, identification of desired future conditions, etc.
- WGs will be provided with worksheets or matrices to fill out so that information and level of detail is consistent across the WGs.
- Each WG will identify a lead who will be the primary person to communicate with WG members and lead the effort to provide completed assignments to the consulting team.
  - The lead will also be expected to attend SPAC meetings to report on progress and challenges.
- SPAC members will be expected to serve on at least one WG, but they will not be the lead (unless they really want to!).
- Members of the consulting team will attend some but not all WG meetings.
- It is anticipated that WGs will meet at least monthly and possibly as often as weekly, depending on the group.
- Meetings will be remote until social distancing recommendations for COVID-19 change.
- WGs will not be divided by sub-basin initially, though each group can certainly do that if it is productive. Public workshops, open to all stakeholders who are not all participating in WGs, will provide an opportunity for sub-basin groups to review, discuss, and refine the output of the WGs from a geographic perspective.
- This organization is considered a starting point. It is possible that a WG will need be divided into more than one group. Likewise, a small WG may elect to combine with another WG. The need for new WGs may emerge.

#### Discussion:

- One attendee asked whether any of these WGs will be tasked with advising the SPAC about the future of the planning process over the next 30 years?
  - This will be important for recommendations to the legislature.
  - This will be added to the Administrative WGs purview, in consultation with Ecology and the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership.
- Who will facilitate the remote meetings for the WGs?
  - As the WGs begin, the consultant team will facilitate.
  - The goal is that each WG will select a lead to organize and run the meetings.
  - Ecology staff will plug into these WGs as they are able.
- One attendee suggested adding a subtopic to the Implementations WG to address right of way and access needs.
- Amanda Cronin asked whether there's been discussion as to whether implementation can be considered without tying back to the water supply need, as there will be quite a bit of overlap there.
  - There will be overlap between the water supply and ecological function WGs with the Implementation WG.
  - Once we get a clear picture of what we want to accomplish in the first 5-10 years, we can articulate what activities will get us there. We'll consider the notion of integrated resource planning and focus on implementing projects that can be multi-functional and serve more than one particular user need.
  - Amanda added that multi-benefit projects will be highly important to consider.

#### Next Steps:

- Please reach out to your partners in the Basin to encourage them to sign up for the WGs. Anyone who is interested is welcome to participate.
  - **To sign up for a WG, email Caroline Burney at [caroline@cascadiaconsulting.com](mailto:caroline@cascadiaconsulting.com).**
- Once WGs are populated, the Consulting Team will schedule the first meetings.

#### Updates and announcements:

- A public workshop was initially scheduled for April but will be postponed until the Governor's 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' order is lifted.
- Upcoming meetings:
  - The Consulting Team will distribute a Doodle poll to schedule SPAC meetings.
  - Once WGs are populated, the Consulting Team will send out Doodle Polls to schedule those meetings.

#### Closing Thoughts:

- Attendees expressed their appreciation for Ecology, the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, the Tribes, and Oregon Water Resources Department for advancing this process during COVID-19.
- Attendees expressed enthusiasm for contributing to the process and advancing solutions in the Basin.
- Chris Kowitz, OR Water Resources Department added that they are working to fill an open Public Engagement Position that was funded to support the Basin study and this process. Once that position is filled, they will arrange virtual or in-person meetings so this person has a chance to interact with all partners in the basin.

- Contact Chris Kowitz at [Chris.C.Kowitz@oregon.gov](mailto:Chris.C.Kowitz@oregon.gov) for more info on the Basin study.
- Attendees requested a presentation on the Walla Walla Flow Study at a future meeting.
  - We will incorporate the Walla Walla Flow Study and the USGS Study at future meetings.
- One attendee shared their concern that major federal government representatives are still not showing up in the process.
  - Ecology shared that the hope is that federal agencies will stay involved and engaged through the Plan development process. Once we get to a place where they're in alignment with a proposed strategic plan, will have a federal caucus to engage as a participant and be a part of the process.
  - Dale Bambick, NOAA, added that if things are happening that impact BLM or Forest Service, NOAA will coordinate with them.
  - Cindy Boen, US Army Corps of Engineers, reiterated that the Corps is here to participate, provide information, and input. The Corps' interest is in operating projects to mitigate flood risks for the City of Walla Walla and meeting requirements for the Endangered Species Act; The Corps does not have an interest in telling stakeholders how to use their water.
- Tom Tebb and Judith Johnson thanked attendees for participating and encouraged everyone to stay engaged.

## Appendix A. Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Adams, Susan	WWT
Allen, Bill	Walla Walla Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee
Bambrick, Dale	NMFS, NOAA
Bedell, Leigh	Ecology
Beeler, Brook	Ecology
Birdsall, Doug	WWWMP
Boen, Cindy	USACE
Brown, Ron	
Burney, Caroline	Cascadia Consulting
Byerley, Annie	Walla Walla Partnership
Campbell, Jon	DWWF
Cronin, Amanda	Amp Insights
Dengel, Jeff	WDFW
Downes, Melissa	Ecology
Dymecki, Sarah	WWT
Edgar, Brent	Cascadia Consulting
Fagan, Colleen	NMFS, NOAA
Foltz, John	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Fredrickson, Michael	Port of Walla Walla
Grandstaff, Mark	WDFW
Gulick, Susan	Sound Resolutions
Hadley, Renee	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Haire, David	CTUIR
Haller, Dan	Aspect

Name	Affiliation
Herbert, Linda	Blue Mountain Land Trust
Hooper, Jon	
Hyland, Chris	WWWMP
Ingham, Mike	Gardena Farms Irrigation District
James, Alexandra	Blue Mountain Land Trust
Johnson, Judith	Walla Walla Partnership
Kahle, Sue	USGS
Kilmer, Teresa	Walla Walla River ID
Kimball, Todd	Walla Walla County
Knowles, Shareen	Little River Group
Kohr, Jonathan	Washington State Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Kowitz, Chris	Oregon Water Resources Department
Lancaster, Ryan	Ecology
Lockwood, Ethan	Washington Water Trust
Marks, Chris	CTUIR - First Foods
Mathieu, Jim	NW Land and Water
McLaughlin, Greg	Washington Water Trust
Muller, Gretchen	Cascadia Consulting
Neve, Bill	Water Right Solutions
Newhouse, Alli	Little River Group
Patten, Steven	City of Milton-Freewater
Perkins, Ralph	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
Pietschmann, Angela	Cascadia Consulting
Poppleton, Tim	Ecology
Ribellia, Kristina	Western Water Market

Name	Affiliation
Rohloff, Sean	
Scribner, Tom	City of Walla Walla
Short, Jaime	Ecology
Stewart, Marc	USGS Oregon
Talbott, Mike	Columbia County
Tarbutton, Scott	Ecology
Tebb, Tom	Ecology
Thurston, Sean	
Trumbull, Travis	

Name	Affiliation
Valentive, Rick	Consultant
Verner, Mary	Ecology
Wachtel, Mark	WDFW
Wagoner, Mark	Gardena Farms Irrigation District
Warren, Bill	
Weaver, Rich	
Wiles, Jeff	USGS
Wolcott, Brian	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council