WALLA WALLA BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 | 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Room 2023-24 | Water & Environment Center at WWCC | 640 Water Center Drive
Hybrid Meeting *(Zoom instructions below)*

Time*	**Agenda Item** (Action items are marked with "**!**")	Reference Materials	Presenter(s)
1:00 *(10 mins)*	**Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda** • Welcome and introductions • Review agenda • Opening remarks	Agenda	• Brook Beeler, Ecology, on behalf of the Tri-Sovereigns • Alexandra Doty, Facilitator

1:10 *(60 mins)*	**Washington's Water Future**
	• Overview of the statewide Washington's Water Future initiative, planning for 30-50years in the future
	• Discussion with BAC members:
	  ○ What solutions are you most interested in advancing?
	  ○ What are the barriers to your success? Are there tools or solutions that are missing?
	  ○ Where do you need more support? What would help continue your progress? What can the state do to help?
		Washington's Water Future Webpage	• Jen Hennessey, Ecology
			• Alexandra Doty, Facilitator
			• BAC members

2:10 *(15 mins)*	**Updates about the Trust Water Program** • Follow up from the August BAC discussion and when to expect additional conversation about the Trust Water program		• Brook Beeler, Ecology • Amanda Cronin, Project Manager • Alexandra Doty, Facilitator
There will be a 10 minute break around 2:25			
2:35 *(60 mins)*	**2050 Project Proposal Results and Discussion** • Summary of the sub work group scoring exercise • Preliminary discussion with BAC members about the draft rankings	Discussion guide with draft ranked lists	• Sarah Dymecki, Ecology • Amanda Cronin, Project Manager
3:35 *(15 mins)*	**Updates** • Paradise Fire and City of WW drinking water updates • Updates on the Open House planning and working group updates • Other updates?	InciWeb for Paradise fire 2026 Promo Packet and Station Host Form	• Alexandra Doty, Facilitator • Amanda Cronin, Project Manager • Adam Klein, City of WW • BAC members
3:50 *(5 mins)*	**Public Comment**		• Alexandra Doty, Facilitator
3:55 *(5 mins)*	**Closing** • Rotating BAC Member closing remarks • Next steps		• Amy Schwab, Port of Walla Walla, Economic Development/Local Government Caucus • Alexandra Doty, Facilitator

*All times are approximate and may change.

Opening Remarks

- Brook Beeler, Ecology, delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Tri-Sovereigns.
- She remarked that it is fall and harvest is underway. Washington Water Future is very important, the Governor asked Ecology to hold listening sessions throughout the state. We knew that Walla Walla was a place we wanted to come as soon as planning began because work here has been ongoing. Ecology will report back on the outcomes. The Trust Water Piece, we want you to know that we know that we have work to do to ensure that people understand the Trust Water Program in the Basin. This will be a bite, more of a meal to come. Looking forward to hearing about the projects and updates.

Washington's Water Future

- Larry Mattson, Ecology, introduced the Washington Water Future, noting that Walla Walla is several steps ahead of other parts of the state for integrated planning, and he introduced Jen Hennessey.
- Jen Hennessey, Ecology, presented on the Washington Water Future initiative. Walla Walla is already leading the way on coming together around a set of projects to address water challenges. Jen presented on current challenges including flooding, less snow, and drought. She noted this is our opportunity to adapt and prepare, and that basins are seeking integrated solutions. Need to scale up solutions across the state to meet the water challenges. This year when Washington declared drought for the 4th year in a row, Governor Ferguson asked Ecology to lead a set of conversations to expand awareness of the challenges of drought and water supply around the state. WWF has engaged over 1,000 participants across engagement and outreach events. We are developing an online tool to share research that has been completed by the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group. We will be synthesizing information from the listening sessions into a report for the Governor and the legislature. The goal is to make sure that the state has the funding tools and policy tools needed to support our communities.
- Key takeaways from the Walla Walla area: declining groundwater, bi-state management with Oregon and Tribal engagement, altered hydrology including winter flooding, and over appropriation of water rights. OCR Columbia River forecast groundwater availability overlaid with populations shows where population centers are reliant on groundwater.
- Amanda Cronin, Fluent, noted that both sides of the state border should feel free to participate. Even though it is Washington's water future we can think of this as Walla Walla's water future.
- Alexandra Doty, Cascadia, posed three questions:
    - What solutions are you most interested in advancing?
    - What are the barriers to your success? Are there tools or solutions that are missing?
    - Where do you need more support? What would help continue your process? What can the state do to help?
- A BAC member noted that Ecology is probably familiar with our plan and strategies. We have been doing a bi-state flow study for years to look at ways to store winter water and we have a new laws to protect Oregon water into Washington. We have spent a lot of effort on restoration and restoring the Mill Creek flood control channel. They noted an interest in infrastructure. We have known for a long time that we need to capture winter water, we also know we have more flooding now. We need to know how to protect our communities from additional flooding. They also noted they don't think we have done enough in this group for conservation, helping the general population understand where their water comes from and how to conserve.
- A BAC member shared their observations that we have historically done a good job of conveying water out of our watershed. We have not done well at keeping water in our watershed. If we look at changes in the hydrograph, we can think about additional benefits of restored floodplains. They buffer wildfire, store water, buffer the hydrographs, benefits to fish and aesthetics. Commerce that is generated from investments in restoration. If we are thinking about strategies for the future, floodplains are essential for flood risk, emergency response. They noted that we have underestimated the value of investing in land use and land restoration. We have a great video which we will share later. Producers are talking about water levels in wells being higher in restored reaches. If you think about costs of replacing these ecosystem services, like treating water, it gets really expensive. The future will not be all engineering solutions but a combination of restoration and infrastructure.

- A BAC member shared that they like to think about the Bi-State Flow Study as the engineered water replacement solution which is key to long term survival of fish and farmers and the future of agriculture. They still don't understand the economics of the investment and of the payback and ongoing operation in a world where agriculture is not getting more profitable, but it gets into survival of agriculture. Focus a lot on assuming that we will figure out where to get the money, it all feels kind of airy. We need to start to think more tangibly about solutions that will work in the real economic world.
- A BAC member shared that they would be interested in pursuing solutions that are a combination of restoration efforts on state, federal lands and private lands. They think we are going to start needing to work more closely in and around infrastructure. There are lots of restoration opportunities on state and federal lands, but then we get into areas that have been developed. We need to figure out regulations to help us work around infrastructure and plan how to restore places that have been developed around infrastructure. It becomes more expensive to fix issues and takes decades longer when maybe we could have gotten ahead of them. We are working on multiple projects in the Mill Creek flood control project, conducting restoration on reaches that are heavily impacted and connecting those to resources in more open spaces. We start seeing the benefits in aggregate.
- A BAC member representing Oregon ag and basalt user east of town shared that they think the biggest thing is the two states, more Washington, understanding that there is a lot of catching up to do with regulating the water. The water doesn't care about the state line, so the states need to stop caring about the state line. We need to figure out how to work together. Lots of things in the plan have allowed us to address a lot of the low hanging fruit and get that done. We have had a couple mentions of farmers, this is a farm economy, in general this area is an underserved economy. We need an understanding of the economics of water as it related to keeping farms going, feeding families. The big conservations have not been happening, they are starting to. We need to get more farmers to talk. Basin-Ag is working on getting more farmers together to talk and find solutions that benefit fish and have positive outcomes for farmers. We have one watermaster for multiple counties. You guys don't know what's going on. You can't come out and regulate us when you're not doing your job.
- A participant wanted to build on the regulation aspect and understanding the resources that are available. If there are opportunities to expand operations and maintenance funding for streamflow gauges and the monitoring network. There is not always funding to keep those operating at full capacity.
- A BAC member said an important thing as we move toward solutions is a focus on localized solutions that are regional and specific. Not the same solutions for here as in western Washington. These big statewide plans don't work broadly, we don't get to reap the benefits that people in Seattle get because it's different here.
    - Jen Hennessey, Ecology, replied that is the reason we have been all over the state to get that localized, specific input.
    - Brook Beeler, Ecology, noted that it's okay to be specific. Sometimes it is regulations that are not working, sometimes it is Ecology or other agencies.
- A BAC member wanted to build on a previous comment. On the Tucannon river, there is a unique opportunity for large-scale floodplain restoration because there is lots of federal and state land ownership. Able to implement large-scale floodplain projects which have benefits for water retention. We have seen an increase in groundwater well levels, and increased flood protection. Floods in 2020 and in this last spring were nearly as big as in 1996 but not as much damage. In this basin, we are somewhat limited in our ability to do large scale floodplain projects. They would like to see this group do more land conservation and large-scale floodplain restoration. Allowing the land to act as a sponge. They believe that this group will continue long after the anchor project and that is the next big thing, more active conservation and restoration of the floodplain.
- A BAC member is building on the comment on streamflow gauges, and they are still blown away by the lack of data. So much of what we do is a faith-based initiative because we don't have the data to monitor it. The data we do have is not longitudinal, we have gaps, we say it's a flashy system. The lack of data is stunning. We have to have data for the analysis to tell us something. Data requires funding, and an integrated approach. They have to believe we are not the only basin with this issue.
    - A participant added that what does exist is fragmented.
- Chris Kowitz, OWRD, wants to thread together the states and conjunctive management. There are certainly gaps in the data, we have worked to fill some of those gaps. OWRD is trying to build a better groundwater database. We need the two states to work together. That is hard to do if one state has a ton of data and the other has little. We

need the shared investment in monitoring to make the best decisions on co-management. OCR has been great about providing capital money, but he highlighted the need for ongoing investment in data if we are going to be successful in the co-management aspirations that we have.

- A BAC member shared they are thinking about a combination of floodplain reconnection. They are a water quality person, that is something we could work on. A lot of the basin is privately owned, there is a lot we could do for outreach to private landowners and engage them in floodplain connection.
- A BAC member said the data issue is one that they have brought up in the past. We still don't have a monitoring plan. We need an RME framework. They volunteered to help work on that.
- A BAC member said we need some legislative change around the Trust Program. It's not working for our basin. Changes need to be made without damaging what it is doing for other places. But both states have invested millions of dollars to protect water and the trust program is not doing what is needs to do to protect it.
- A BAC member said we don't do enough monitoring. They have friends with exempt wells who have no idea how much water they are using. When we are talking about every drop those wells add up. We have not paid enough attention to the upper watershed. The Blue Mountain forest plan has a deadline of September 30th for public comments. We need to pay attention, many of the protections for watersheds and roads plan to go away. That is something at the state level that the governor needs to pay attention to.
- Jen Hennessey, Ecology, asked what are specific data gaps or regulatory barriers?
    - A BAC member said we are thinking about an anchor project like the pump exchange but big solutions have big effects, we have these big plans that are all dependent on SEPA. We have an incomplete understating of what those effects will be. We should consider those effects before we have to. We should start that process now.
    - A BAC member said every project should have metrics. Just figuring that out would be a leap forward. What are the tangible measurables and what those teach us.
- A participant said we have no real mechanism for permit exempt well enforcement. As for the discussion on the benefits of restoration projects, those usually have been funded with public money but the localized benefits are for the private property owners. It would be great to be able to shift the balance a little bit. From a budgetary perspective, that shouldn't necessarily come from Ecology, maybe from state emergency management because ultimately that is money they won't have to spend in the future.
    - A BAC member asked a question on restoration and benefits going to private landowners. The Oregon watershed enhancement board allows funding going toward the watershed and the landowners have to show benefits for the whole watershed, does Washington have anything like that?
    - A BAC member replied Yes, in 1999 the state legislature created salmon recovery funding board.
- A BAC member shared they have had the water rights shared with them, the PDFs are very confusing. It makes sense to digitize these in a GIS database. Water rights tied to parcels including the monitoring stations and diversions. A dashboard to track what is happening live. Everyone at Ecology is doing the best they can but they need more tools to be able to do their jobs. The other piece is ASR. There are different requirements for water treatment from DOH and Ecology. Higher restrictions from Ecology than DOH, some clarity would help.
- A BAC member said when you are looking at a municipality where we have to plan 30 years out, changes in state regulations create planning challenges. Sharing those updates with local entities as it is going so that we can implement that into our planning process. It makes it hard for the cities and counties to do long term planning without knowing what is coming on the horizon from the state.
- A BAC member remarked that Oregon has done a great job trying to understand where the groundwater is at. Oregon is going to start regulation, and Washington is continuing to allow new wells to get drilled. That is going to affect the whole watershed. Every Washington winery also gets grapes from the Oregon side. It is all interconnected. They reiterated the ASR stuff. If Oregon is doing ASR and refilling groundwater pools and then Washington allows new wells to suck that out, that isn't going to work. The difficult solutions are ones that are going to require flexibility, legislative changes, unique agency in the valley.
- A BAC member said Walla Walla has dozens of small creeks running through town. We had a program with Tri-State Steelheaders to put in small buffers on city properties. The funding available now won't do buffers less than 75-80 ft. We can't get funding even for willing landowners. We need small buffers on small streams. Walla Walla does have a unique hydrology.

- A BAC member agreed that there is lots of conversation about critical barriers and new requirements. They haven't heard anything that says given we are a community built on a river this is what we need to do. We have friends who have a stream 10 ft from their house. Given this is historically how we have developed, how do we deal with that instead of just decreeing we have to have X amount of buffer space. We need to think about the economic and social impacts. What can we do given the constraints?

Trust Water Program

- Brook Beeler, Ecology, thanked everyone for the robust conversation last month. People are still very confused by the Trust Program and how it is implemented. Ecology has work to do to explain how historically we have managed the Trust Program compared to now and the rigor of implementation. We want to hone-in on the places that need the most work or understanding. We are developing a detailed analysis of our three main distributaries, where there are Trust Water donations, how they are protected, where they are protected and visually display return flow. Working on having that for the December BAC meeting. Today we are taking questions or seeking your feedback on specific pieces that we should address or dig into.
- A BAC member said it is great that we are laying a foundation of documentation of what is and how it has been. The key piece is what does that mean moving forward, what changes do we need to be able to protect water across the state line and make it available? The history is great but the "so what" piece is most critical. They hear a strong desire for a working group sort of effort. It might feel like you are defending where you have been, but we need to be clear about what you need and how we as a group can support those changes so you can do your job.
- A BAC member said it would be helpful to see more of an analysis of the impact. We don't want to assess damage afterwards. The analysis of impact relies on the submitted application. There should be more oversight from a neutral standpoint.
    - Brook Beeler, Ecology said to clarify you are talking about an assessment prior to final decisions?
    - Yes, for developed water in the Trust.
- A BAC member thanked Ecology for their engagement to make sure we have the tools to do what we need to do collaboratively.
- A BAC member asked what is the level of knowledge of diversions on the rivers? The quantity and how many of those are understood, regulated or monitored and how that compares to the Oregon side?
- A BAC member asked how the department will look at surface water groundwater interactions? If a water right is put in trust high in the basin how do you account for seepage loss or gain? How do you account for groundwater users getting benefits and surface water losses or vice versa?
- A BAC member asked if it is Ecology or the regulator who has not been doing their job, what opportunities are there for those who will feel the pain of enforcing those? If you start regulating GFID for example, what relief could be done?
    - A BAC member shared their perspective that GFID is the most highly regulated irrigator on the Washington side, there is no question about what we are doing at any point in time.
    - A BAC member clarified the previous commenter's point to be that we need to clarify the impacts.
    - A BAC member shared they think making the actual Walla Walla River decree available would help people. Having this nexus available will help people understand the why.
- A BAC member just wanted to point back to data. What do we gather, what do we know, what should we have to feed back to making these decisions. It would be nice to try something and be able to measure the impact.
- A BAC member reiterated the importance of collaboration. The alternative is not anything we want to entertain. We have to have this because it is critical, we don't want this basin to be thrust into decades of litigation.

2050 Project Proposals

- Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, highlighted some of the differences in this process versus previous years. There are proposals from both Oregon and Washington. The criteria was developed by Tri-Sovereigns. Reminded everyone of the process that has occurred. Prioritization criteria and weights relative to their importance. Used to develop the list.

- Amanda Cronin, Fluent, highlighted the objective of the discussion is to ask questions about preliminary scoring results. In October, the BAC will discuss ways to package the funding asks. 7-8 reviewers on each proposal.

Discussion Questions

- Specific questions about the projects?
- Questions about the rankings.

Floodplains, Habitat, and Fish Passage Projects

- No questions

Water Projects

- A BAC member noticed that heritage gardens is ranked last. Was the value of public outreach and engagement included in the project prioritization?
    - Amanda Cronin, Fluent, said that is difficult to measure. We have had a big emphasis on measurability and magnitude of benefits so this project did not score as high on those. It is difficult because the plan is so broad and the proposals are so different it is hard to score them using the same metrics. The BAC does have some ability to make some judgement calls.
    - Alexandra Doty, Cascadia, clarified that these are not funding packages yet.
- A BAC member asked if the water right acquisition involves the use of the Trust program? And the developed water program?
    - A BAC member answered yes.
    - Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, clarified that last time the request for WWT water right acquisition funding came up the project request was split in half, so half was funded by Washington and half by Oregon.

Water Quality and Monitoring Projects

- A BAC member noted confusion. We have a mix of projects in Oregon and Washington. Are there any guardrails on between the states?
    - Yes, if there is a benefit to instream or out of stream water resources in Washington, that money can be spent in Oregon and vice versa as per the WA and OR legislative language.
    - Chris Kowitz, OWRD, said Oregon dollars can be spent in Washington. Oregon's rules are the same verbiage as the Washington legislation.
    - A BAC member clarified that this has not been shaken out yet.
    - Amanda Cronin, Fluent, clarified that we wanted to rank all of the projects together to make sure that all of the projects are compared together. Then we will put together the funding packages for each state.
- A BAC member asked if water resources benefits is just water quantity or if that includes water quality?
    - Brook Beeler, Ecology, said it is benefit. We should find the language and make sure that is clear.
    - Amanda Cronin, Fluent, read the language of the RCW "benefit instream and out of stream benefits in the state" interpreted as water quantity last time.
    - Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, said that is why water transaction development was split last time. Ecology couldn't fund outreach but could fund the application for a change.
- A BAC member asked a question about funding capacity versus implementation. Basin Ag was having a hard time getting out of that capacity box. How is the WWT project development not capacity?
    - Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, said it comes down to how we end up scoping and what the project implementation outcome is. The deliverables would be more along the lines of due diligence reports or some sort of product that says these 5 projects could be developed, whether the landowner goes through with that or not. That is a question this group needs to ask, what do they want to see from these projects?
- A BAC member said for context, OWEB deals with capacity projects too. Is it going to lead to an on the ground something. They no longer fund education for education, have to prove to the legislature that these are capital dollars.
- A BAC member asked if the total scores for each category were the same? The City of Walla Walla project is one where we saw immediate instream flow benefits, just curious how that one scored so low. Just curious how a project that was a high priority scored so low.
    - Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, said that could have been an interpretation of the specific phasing. Good to think about long-term benefits also.

- A BAC member mentioned that the application questions asked if there were other sources of funding and then that made the project score lower if no other sources of funding were available.
    - Amanda Cronin, Fluent, clarified that the consultant team calculated scores for matching funding based on information from the project proposals.
- A BAC member said the information goes out only to people who participated last year in the areas of interest. The same people are involved in that priority ranking. Now they come to the whole BAC, a lot of people haven't looked at all of the projects on the list, makes it difficult for the whole BAC to make a decision on all of the projects. Creates a certain kind of bias from one area of interest to the other. Fisheries people may not know about water quality and water quality people may not know about fisheries.
    - Amanda Cronin, Fluent, said yes this is an area that could be improved. Ecology wants to fund a broad suite of projects. It is looking at all the categories, not just the top ranked ones. We need to continue to refine this process.
    - Brook Beeler, Ecology, noted that our shared approach is to have people with expertise rank the projects.
    - A BAC member noted that we are looking at an integrated plan.
    - Brook Beeler agreed and asked how do we get this group to do the integration?
- A BAC member shared they were in all the groups and listened to all of the presentations. But then doing the scoring they did not feel qualified to rank them. They took themselves out of the scoring because they did not know what they were doing.
    - Amanda Cronin, Fluent, clarified that the rankings are supposed to come from subject matter experts.
- A BAC member said they did not score Oregon projects because they did not feel that they knew enough about them.
- A BAC member said it is great that we brought in the expertise. Maybe next time we could have more notice that this was coming up and give more opportunities to be involved.
- Chris Kowitz, OWRD, said we have heard from many of you that this process is not what you want it to be. We are working on developing an integrated matrix for the long term. Larry's idea of making it more like a transportation improvement projects list framework. We heard that this process is a bit clunky; we are working on building a thing to make this process more integrated. We couldn't do it in time for OCR's list this year but we are sketching out what that will look like and we look forward to bringing that to share.
- A BAC member said my comment was not meant to be critical but constructive.
- Alexanda Doty, Cascadia, prompted questions about specific projects.
- Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, shared that she doesn't want to negate the technical expertise that went into these rankings. Today is about asking questions about these projects and rankings. What do the top 10 projects look like if we were to move forward with those? Are there surprises or questions?
- A BAC member said it would be helpful to see within the rankings and how each project scored for each category. If it was ranked high on impact but low on other sources of funding.
    - Amanda Cronin, Fluent, said we can share the full table of rankings if that would provide more clarity.
    - A BAC member said it would be helpful.
- A BAC member asked if the money needs to be allocated a certain percent to each of the categories?
    - No
    - A BAC member clarified if a certain types of projects have funding thresholds?
        - No, the BAC can make any recommendations they wish to fund.
- A BAC member asked if she could advocate for Heritage Gardens. Heritage gardens is the only project with a public interface. They would like to advocate for it to be used as a filler because of the importance of outreach and education.
    - A BAC member said there is an outreach component for the Milton-Freewater waterwise landscaping project.
- A BAC member asked where the heritage gardens that have been funded are? How can we inform the projects that have been funded in the past?
    - Annie Bylerley, WWCCD, said we can't give out addresses. People who have certified gardens get a sign. It is also an outreach and engagement like tabling at the native plant sale.

- A BAC member said as you are developing the matrix we need objective measures to score them on. Some of the criteria are subjective. What they are hearing from a previous commenter is that some of the subjective criteria that you were thinking about in developing your project were not even considered in the scoring. Integration and coordination, degree to which a project is connected. They asked how is it sequencing to create the maximum benefit? Someone else might look at this and ask how it is integrating with the next phase of their project.
    - Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, also pointed out that assessments don't always rank as high because there are not tangible benefits so that is something for the BAC to consider.
- A BAC member asked what is the total funding package amount?
    - Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, said we are thinking about requesting $4.8 million for Walla Walla because that was the amount last biennium with the caveat that the legislature awarded half that, $2.4 million, last time.
    - Chris Kowitz, OWRD, said we fund things differently in Oregon but we ask for some or all of the money and then we have to get a legislator to carry it forward. Our funding package will take the projects and take those to a legislative champion.
    - A BAC member asked for a number.
        - Chris said $2.5 million last year
        - A BAC member said why are they peeling out Oregon projects and not Washington projects?
            - Chris said there were not projects with a bi-state benefit last time.
            - A BAC member said and none of those projects are in Washington.
            - Chris said we haven't decided that yet.
- A BAC member asked in the last round we got toward the end and then discussed package by package and weighed different methodology at the very end. Is there something we could do today that could do that at the beginning rather than in June which felt like we got hung up on it at the end. If today is about asking questions for each one and how we move forward? Just trying to prevent us from doing the same thing we did last time.
- A BAC member said we had the discussion a year ago around heritage gardens. We have projects that are uncomfortable within the criteria that we have. We have goals around outreach but they are not prioritized in the projects. Comparing heritage gardens to water rights acquisitions, they are so different and it is hard to even do a comparison. Where does that fit?
    - Sarah Dymecki, Ecology, clarified that outreach is really hard to fund with capital dollars. We are only looking at project implementation and project development with this capital funding. Chris and Larry's full priority list will be looking at projects that could be funded with other sources. Unfortunately, the funding we have right now doesn't fit all of those projects.
- A BAC member said we should ask for what we need instead of asking for what we thought we might get and then get half.
    - Larry Mattson, Ecology, shared that he is given a cap on what to can ask for. It is always acceptable for BAC members to go to the legislature and ask for different amounts.
- A BAC member asked if there is a way that we can sort out projects that are hard to fund such as outreach projects with capital dollars?
- A BAC member agreed with Larry's comments.
- A BAC member asked on Walla Walla Basin Ag+ how is that not a capacity project?
    - Nathan Rea, Basin Ag+, said it's not capacity because we are facilitating conversations to develop projects and working on feasibility of projects
        - A BAC member asked is that considered a feasibility study?
            - Nathan Rea said yes, outreach was never brought up under this project. The money can't be used for capacity. It will be used for a feasibility study. However, it kind of is capacity because for example a conservation district could hire someone to do the feasibility study which is like hiring capacity.
- A BAC member agreed that we should ask for more from people who are not agency folks.
    - Brook Beeler, Ecology, said don't forget our capacity when you are asking to give us more money.
- A BAC member asked about future planning for the next round. Can we bring all proposals whether they are eligible for OCR funding or not? If we are changing the criteria we should do a whole new ask so that if you have

an outreach project that is not fundable right now, they could bring that forward in the future. Just want clarity for that.
    - Larry Mattson, Ecology, said the timing on this full list is probably 2 years. We don't want to do this midstream. We want to work with all of you about the best timing for this. We want to have a draft of the framework in the next 3-6 months. We might go to all of the NGOs in the basin and ask for all of the projects they have planned and their priorities and put them on a master list to bring to this group and see how we want to allocate the money.
- A BAC member wanted to clarify that all of the projects on the Washington list are on the list so good coordination on this.
- Amanda Cronin, Fluent, noted follow ups to provide details on scoring.

Updates

- Adam Klein, City of Walla Walla, provided updates on the paradise fire. To date we have not had any impacts on drinking water quality. We had a rain event a few weeks ago and saw a small blip in turbidity but it went back down. We met with the Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team in the high severity burn area. The soil burn severity map shows the results are much better than expected. Small areas of high severity. What the forest service refers to as mosaic. No sediment debris flows seen during that rain event. The BAER report should be coming out this week as well as the DNR report on sediment debris flows. The areas where we already have issues with sediment debris flows will likely get worse, may see some impacts to water quality in the fall and spring. We don't know how much of an impact there will be yet. We did install some additional equipment, a turbidity meter upstream of the intake to be able to take hourly measurements and model flows.
    - A BAC member asked what kind of monitoring will be needed?
        - Adam said we don't have a clear plan for future monitoring upstream yet. The City is applying for a DOH grant to plan for that.
    - A BAC member asked if this is an opportunity to get filtration plant funding?
        - Adam said yes, this is an opportunity. Estimates for that are between $50-75 million. We are going to start a pilot study. Have to do a pilot study first.
    - Brook Beeler, Ecology, also highlighted that Walla Walla was included in the disaster declaration which opens up federal funding.
        - Adam said that hinges on that BAER report and the DNR report.
        - A BAC member clarified that the BAER report is usually used for immediate recovery but can be used to inform long-term recovery.
- Steve Martin shared the drone imagery of the Túuši Wána project. Will be looping on the monitors during the open house and includes AI renderings of what the restoration will look like.
- Planning 4th annual WW2050 open house on October 27th
    - Please continue to promote the event.
    - New location this year: Water and Environment Center at the Walla Walla Community College
- October BAC Meeting 28th
- Implementation workgroup meeting early November

Public Comment

- A public commenter provided their clarification on WWF presentation. Too much secrecy with this process. Stakeholder meetings were closed to the public. Ecology has not released the attendees list. Ecology has not met with the Yakima workgroup, only with their executive committees which are closed to the public. Ecology has not posted the meeting summaries from those closed meetings. Ecology's sounding board half of which were included in the Yakima basin planning process. The sounding board has bias. Ecology's comment period has closed. Did not present to this group until after that comment period was closed. The WWF shows that high water temperatures are problem but does not support Lower Snake River Dam breaching.
- A public commenter asked about the ASR projects and why the Sevein project is significantly cheaper?

- A public commenter wants to be a voice for people in their generation. UN has declared an era of water bankruptcy. Water supply is less around the planet. Most people are aware of hydrologic services originate in high upland forests. Forests are sequestering water and allowing it to flow throughout the year. Deforestation is directly linked to desertification. We sit in the most important time for the Blue Mountain Forest Plan revision EIS comment period deadline is September 30. Forest protections are being removed and the forest service is tripling logging in the region. The City of Walla Walla is supporting the proposal to double logging. The city is also voting on a new development that would be irrigated by city of Walla Walla water resources, the same resources that are currently critically low and with the unknown impacts of the paradise fire. Please comment on the blue mountain forest plan to advocate for the existing plan at least.

Closing

- Amy Schwab provided closing remarks.
- Coming to this table with this community to work on this audacious effort is humbling. There is so much that we don't know, so much that we think we know but we don't, and so much work to do. Future generations may ask what we thought we were doing which brings me back to humility. This project will bring us together to get to 2050 and beyond. There are social, environmental, and economic implications. These are generations of work and we are stewarding a legacy whether it is Tribal or a land agricultural legacy. We are making sure that there is something there for the children and the grandchildren. So let's just appreciate all of the work that everyone around this table has put into this process and the deep collaborative process as we dive into these uncomfortable realities and work together and learn how to move forward. Thank you to everyone for continuing to do this hard work.

Attendees

WWBAC Members & Alternates

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Agriculture		
Alli	Newhouse	Oregon Agriculture, Little River Group
Annie	Byerley	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Nathan	Rea	Walla Walla Basin Ag+
Mike	Ingham	Gardena Farms Irrigation District
Environment		
Judith	Johnson	Kooskooskie Commons
Nina	Lottsfeldt	Washington Water Trust
Ralph	Perkins	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
Tara	Patten	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
Steve	Martin	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Recreation/Quality of Life		
Linda	Herbert	Community Member and Blue Mountain Land Trust
Jerry	Norquist	Community Member
Economic Development		
Amy	Schwab	Port of Walla Walla
Local Government		

Adam	Klein	City of Walla Walla
Steven	Patten	City of Milton Freewater
Jack	Miller	Columbia County
Dan	Dorran	Umatilla County
Todd	Kimball	Walla Walla County
State Government		
Mark	Wachtel	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Trea	Nance	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Taylor	McCroskey	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tribal Government		
Jerimiah	Bonifer	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Federal Government		
Cindy	Boen	US Army Corps of Engineers
Tri-Sovereigns (Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members)		
Anton	Chiono	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Brook	Beeler	Ecology
Chris	Kowitz	Oregon Water Resources Department
Melissa	Downes	Ecology
Larry	Mattson	Ecology, Office of the Columbia River
Ross	Deardorff	Oregon Water Resources Department

WWBAC Members (Primaries) Not Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Agriculture		
Travis	Trumbull	Walla Walla River Irrigation District
Federal Government		
Colleen	Fagan	National Marine Fisheries Service
Economic Development		
Nick	Velluzzi	Walla Walla Community College
State Government		
Mike	Kuttel, Jr.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Other Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Alexandra	Doty	Cascadia Consulting Group
Allison	Crowley	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Amanda	Cronin	Fluent Freshwater Insights
Amanda	Lowe	Oregon Water Resources Department
Becca	Woody	Unaffiliated
Brian	Burns	Tri-State Steelheaders
Chris	Figgins	Irrigator
Charlotte	Whitefield	Oregon Water Resources Department
Cynthia	Bounds	Hanford Mission Integration Solutions
David	Ortman	Unaffiliated

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Emily	Beebe	Ecology
Harlan	Gough	Washington Water Trust
Jamie	Short	Ecology
Jon	Culp	SCC
Jackie	McCool	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
James	Baker	Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
Janna	Guzman	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeff	Dengel	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jean	Woody	Oregon Water Resources Department
Jean	Dolling	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, Irrigator
Jennifer	Hennessey	Ecology
Kevin	Scribner	Unaffiliated
Luke	Martin	Oregon Water Resources Department
Melissa	Shumake	Walla Walla County Community Development
Mark	Medina	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
Marie	Sullivan	Unaffiliated
Patrick	Cabbage	Ecology
Paul	Lynn	The Confluence Series
Randal	Son	Private Landowner
Roopal	Jani	WSB
Sarah	Dymecki	Ecology
Sara	Harris	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
Sasha	Medlin	Ecology
Stan	Hoffman	Washington Department of Health
Stuart	Crane	Yakama Nation Water Resources Program
Tim	Poppleton	Ecology
Teresa	Kilmer	Unaffiliated
Wyatt	Bolgear	Irrigator
Unknown	509-630-9087	Unaffiliated