



**Meeting Summary**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**  
**1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

<b>Time*</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b> (Action items are marked with “!”)	<b>Reference Materials</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>
<b>1:00</b> (10 mins)	<b>Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> <li>Opening remarks</li> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Review agenda</li> <li>Review and Approve Meeting Summary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>October Meeting Summary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> <li>Tom Tebb, Ecology</li> <li>Judith Johnson, WWWMP</li> </ul>
<b>1:10 *</b> (10 mins)	<b>Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Floodplains Matrix &amp; Strategic Plan</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caroline Burney</li> </ul>
<b>1:20*</b> (100 mins)	<b>Flow Targets and Methods to Protect Instream Flows</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview: CTUIR’s Flow Targets (20 minutes)</li> <li>Strategy Needs to Protect Streamflows (15 minutes)</li> <li>Overview of Methods to Protect Flows (15 minutes)</li> <li>Discussion: Potential Strategies to Consider for the Strategic Plan (40 minutes)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies from WA                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WWWMP</li> <li>Ecology</li> </ul> </li> <li>Strategies from OR</li> </ul> </li> <li>SPAC discussion (10 minutes)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gary James, CTUIR</li> <li>Chris Marks, CTUIR</li> <li>Amanda Cronin</li> <li>Eric Hartwig, Ecology</li> <li>Chris Hyland, WWWMP</li> <li>Chris Kowitz, OWRD</li> </ul>
<b>3:00*</b>	<b>10 MINUTE BREAK</b>		
<b>3:10*</b> (60 mins)	<b>Strategies to be Considered in Strategic Plan: Streamflows and Groundwater</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-term and long-term strategies for development by Working Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPAC Discussion Matrix: “Streamflows” &amp; “Groundwater”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPAC Member Discussion</li> <li>Caroline Burney &amp; Amanda Cronin, Working Group Coordinators</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>4:10*</b> (5 mins)	<b>Topics for Future Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Upcoming SPAC Discussion Topics               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Supply Needs (December)                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned as a joint meeting with the Bi-State Flow Study Steering Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>Critical Species and Habitat (January)</li> <li>Surface Water Quality (February)</li> <li>Land Use and Cover (February)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Presentation Ideas from past discussions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Irrigators and Irrigation in Watershed</li> <li>Past, current and potential funding sources for basin projects</li> <li>Bi-State Flow Study</li> <li>How is each state addressing the instream flow protections?</li> <li>Basin hydrology, including existing monitoring sites</li> <li>Forest management</li> <li>Existing and future conservation projects</li> <li>Agency programs and roles in watershed (which agencies?)</li> <li>Other</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WWW 2050 WG and SPAC Discussion Topics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caroline Burney, Cascadia</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>4:15*</b> (10 mins)	<b>Public Comment</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>

<b>4:25*</b> <i>(5 mins)</i>	<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: December 16</li> <li>○ Working Groups</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> <li>• Caroline Burney, Cascadia Consulting</li> </ul>
<b>4:30*</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>

## Welcome & Introductions

Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology, and Judith Johnson, WWWMP welcomed attendees. Tom added that the SPAC is hitting its stride in terms of rolling up technical information into strategic plan content. He thanked attendees for their patience with the online format. Judith expressed hope that everyone is doing well and added that she is excited for the presentations and discussions at the meeting.

Susan Gulick, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda and led roll call. See **Appendix A** for the list of attendees.

## Updates

Caroline Burney, Cascadia Consulting Group, provided an update on the Floodplains and Flood Control section of the Strategic Plan. The writing team is taking a sequenced approach to writing the strategic plan. The Floodplains and Flood Control section of the Strategic Plan was distributed to the Working Groups (WG) on 11/16. This include Current Conditions, Desired Future Conditions, Gap Identification, and Strategies. The goal of this sequenced approach to the Strategic Plan is to confirm whether we're hitting the mark regarding the level of technical detail while also keep Plan content moving forward.

Please continue to share any specific comments and general feedback on the Strategic Plan with Angela Pietschmann at [angela@cascadiaconsulting.com](mailto:angela@cascadiaconsulting.com).

## Flow Targets and Methods to Protect Instream Flows

### 1. CTUIR's Flow Targets, Gary James, CTUIR

Gary James, CTUIR, provided an update on CTUIR's flow targets as well as the methodologies to determine the targets. Results are shown in Tables 1 – 4 below. Instream flow needs are an important piece of water management for several reasons, including:

- Flow needs can inform multi-purpose water management.
- Flow needs can inform restoration projects, such as Bi-State Flow Study.
- Flow needs can limit additional out-of-stream consumptive uses.

There have been several past flow studies in the Walla Walla Basin that have been used to establish the instream flow targets. Methodologies to determine instream flow needs include (CTUIR/Stillwater Sciences 2013):

- Physical Delineation
  - Identify representative stream reaches in:
    - Mainstem Walla Walla River (6), South Fork, North Fork, Couse Creek, Yellowhawk Creek, and Dry Creek.
    - Touchet River (2), South Fork, North Fork, Coppei Creek.
    - Mill Creek (5), Blue Creek.
  - Hydrology Data and Analysis
    - 13 gage locations with varying data from 1908-2009.
    - Mean monthly flows calculated for each reach from “representative” conditions.

- Extrapolation was used for discontinuous datasets.
- Flood Frequency Analysis: High flow estimates for 2 and 7-year interval flows were calculated for each reach.
- Biological Delineation: Species and Criteria Used:
  - Three species used to identify fish flow needs: Spring Chinook, Steelhead, and Bull Trout.
  - Identified timing of each life history stage (adult migration, spawning, juvenile rearing, and juvenile outmigration).
  - Identified location or reach where each life history stage occurs, including life stage present and peak life stage timing.
  - For each month at each reach, the most “flow demanding” species and life history stage was identified.
  - Assumed that if meeting the needs of the most “flow demanding” species, then will meet the needs of other aquatic species and life stages.
- Application of Instream Flow Methodologies
  - Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM):
    - Study of representative channel cross section with velocity, depth, and substrate.
    - Considers both habitat quantity and quality.
    - Widely used to determine “weighted useable area” to inform flow recommendations.
    - This method is the first choice to prescribe flows, where available.
  - Modified Tennant Method:
    - This method is used if IFIM is not available.
    - It uses historical records of mean monthly and annual flows.
    - Considers wetted channel area to determine habitat quantity.
  - If neither method is available, utilize neighboring reaches with data as surrogates.
    - Integrate biological inputs and flow methodologies used for each stream reach.
    - Stepwise approach to connect flow recommendations, beginning at the headwaters.

Outputs from Study for Recommended Monthly Average Instream Fish Flows (CFS)

Stream Reach	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Reach 6 - Forks to Couise	90	91	91	97	104	180	281	218	151	81	76	77
Reach 5 - Couise to Cottonwood	91	96	97	105	112	197	297	230	156	90	90	90
Reach 4 – Cottonwood to Mill	92	105	106	117	127	215	322	247	165	91	90	90
Reach 3 – Mill to Dry	138	160	170	191	215	319	471	357	237	143	135	135
Reach 2 – Dry to Touchet	142	169	180	208	235	338	488	367	246	146	137	137
Reach 1 – Touchet to mouth	190	237	268	320	398	561	735	529	313	183	163	170
Bi-State Flow Study Instream Flow Targets	65	65	95	95	120	120	150	150	150/ 100	65	65	65

Table 1: Walla Walla River Recommended Monthly Average Instream Fish Flows (cfs)

Stream Reach	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Touchet – S. Fork to Coppei	45	60	78	96	140	196	219	148	60	35	25	32
Touchet – Coppei to mouth	48	64	82	102	152	212	236	157	64	36	26	33

Table 2: Touchet River Recommended Monthly Average Instream Fish Flows (cfs)

Stream Reach	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Lower Mill Creek	46	55	64	74	88	104	149	110	72	52	45	45

Table 3: Mill Creek Recommended Monthly Average Instream Fish Flows (cfs)

Flood Frequency Analyses and Channel Maintenance Flow Recommendations:

- Flow regime necessary to support continuation of historic flows and related ecologically based geomorphic functions.
- Used 1931-2009 flood frequency analyses to quantify the discharge associated with 2-year and 7-year recurrence interval flows for each reach.
- Majority of instream habitat creation and maintenance occurs during bank-full flows.
- 2-year recurrence level defined as ‘bankful or habitat maintenance flow.’
- 7-year recurrence level defined as ‘overbank or riparian floodplain refreshment.’

Stream Reach	2-Yr Recurrence Interval Flow (min. 1 day)	7-Yr Recurrence Interval Flow (min. 3 days)
Upper WW River	1,005 cfs	1,360 cfs
Lower WW River	3,883 cfs	6,706 cfs
Lower Touchet River	1,780 cfs	2,850 cfs

Table 4: Flow Recommendations

Discussion:

- Tom asked via the chat function whether there is a priority list of representative reaches that we could pick off as resources allow?
  - The report did not assign any priority reaches. Gary added that it does not make sense to select individual reaches to repair – need to look at the systemwide issues because fish need to venture up the entire system.

**2. Strategy Needs to Protect Streamflows: Chris Marks, CTUIR**

Chris Marks, CTUIR, provided an overview of the current conditions, the desired future conditions, and some of the gaps that the 2050 plan should address with regards to streamflows.

Current Conditions:

- In the development focused-era, consumptive use was the primary focus and instream flow uses were overlooked.
  - Over appropriation of surface water and groundwater.
  - Separate management of surface water and groundwater as well as separate management of land and water, and river and floodplains.
  - Degraded ecosystem functions.
  - Substantial litigation.
  - Inconsistent data network.
- The Partnership Era has been important for identifying instream flow as a beneficial use, modifying existing consumptive use water rights, and exploring new storage water supply options.

- Additionally, new rules around ecological flows inhibit new water rights that would worsen the problem.
  - Instream Flow Rule (WA)
  - Winter Water Environmental Enhancement Requirement (WA)
  - Water Right Conditions (OR)
- Groundwater connectivity:
  - No new alluvial groundwater rights
  - Permit Exempt (PE) well mitigation program
- There have also been improvements to integrate land and water management (e.g. Growth Management Act, WA).

Flow Protection Desired Conditions:

- Bi-state Coordination
  - Gap: Flows originating in OR through WA.
- Surface and Groundwater Co-Management
  - Gap: Flow impacts and benefits.
- Cumulative Flow Enhancement
  - Gap: floodplain restoration projects.
  - Gap: Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR).
  - Gap: flexible conservation.
- Overall gap: Reliable, defensible, and coordinated data to know what we're managing and understand the impacts when we make a management decision.
  - Need states and local governments to be coordinated so that there is a network set up that people are willing to support when difficult decisions need to be made.

Conclusion:

- Flows are a vital component of WWW2050 Plan.
  - Heard from the Corps that our plan to protect flows was not reasonable.
  - If we do not address this issue, we are not going to achieve our objectives.
- Need improvements in both states, and at the bi-state level.
- Need coordination with related ongoing efforts.
  - As we develop strategies to overcome the gaps, we need to be coordinated with related, ongoing efforts. For example, the USGS basin study will help us take the next steps to monitor and protect key resources.
  - Three sovereigns process – the gaps in the DFCs need to be addressed by a comprehensive flow protection solution.
  - WW flow study – improvement to water management must consider the types of projects and outcomes anticipated from the Flow Study.

Discussion:

- *No comments.*

### **3. Methods to Restore Streamflows, Amanda Cronin, Consultant Team**

Amanda Cronin, AMP Insights, provided an overview of methods to restore streamflows, once we have DFCs or flow targets. Streamflow restoration can be referred to as environmental water transactions. Many implementers in both states have engaged in water transactions over the last 20 years.

There are two main categories of methods to improve instream flow, as well as several sub-categories.

- Water Management Savings

- Efficiencies: improving diversion efficiency, delivery efficiency, transmission efficiency, and on-farm efficiency (type of irrigation used).
- Shallow aquifer recharge: infiltrating aquifer to impact groundwater and potentially surface water.
- Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR): storing water in the ground in the off season and pumping it out at another season.
- Storage release: storing water during the off-season in order to then pump it out for later use when needed.
- Source switch.
- Point of Diversion (POD) change.
- Consumptive Use Savings (e.g. decreasing the amount of water used/lost to system):
  - Crop switch – changing to lower water use crops. (E.g. row crops to wine grapes).
  - Deficit irrigation – purposely irrigating at a rate that strains its productivity. This is only appropriate for some crops.
  - Fallow irrigated land – could be removing water right from land.
    - Water right leases – full or portion of a season.
    - Water right purchase – all or portion of water right. Generally, the land would not be irrigated with another source.

#### Examples of Projects:

- Water right purchases and leases in the Walla Walla Basin: On WA side, many transactions have revolved around keeping land in production by not irrigating. Not possible in all places.
- Water User Agreements: Agreement to change water use or management, but no legal protection instream.
  - Forbearance agreement: Similar to a lease. Used when one or more users agree not to use water on their land. Does not involve a change to their legal water right.
  - Diversion Reduction Agreement (DRA): Irrigators limit diversion.
    - Different from Forbearance because it involves an explicit statement about the amount of water diverted from the source.
  - Minimum flow agreement (MFA): Irrigators guarantee specific flow levels.
- Irrigation efficiencies
  - Different efficiencies associated with on-farm irrigation. Drip irrigation is thought to be the most efficient method.
  - There's been a strong focus on getting people to be more efficient. That can reduce the amount of water that needs to be diverted but does not save any CU water because the same number of acres being grown – requires the same amount of water.
- Source-Switch Groundwater (e.g. Three Sisters District)
  - Late season source switch from surface water to groundwater. Stored water in old well.
  - Pumped when the creek fell below a pre-determined level.
- Salmon Creek, Okanogan Basin Storage Release
  - Pulse flow agreement.
  - Irrigation district paid to release stored water from upstream reservoir.
  - Re-watered Salmon Creek for endangered Steelhead.
  - Agreement kept parties out of court.

#### Outreach & Negotiation Strategies:

- Negotiation
  - 1-on-1 negotiation: Can be time intensive and result in various prices being charged across the basin.
  - Broadcast approaches:
    - Request for Water
    - Posted Offer
    - Reverse Auction
- Outreach

- Individual contact – word of mouth, referrals, direct outreach.
- Media.
- Events.

#### Lessons Learned:

- Conserved water efficiency projects can have flow benefits but there are a few factors that make these projects successful:
  - Needs to be a significant source of seepage. Low hanging fruit are areas with permeable soils (extent of loss).
  - These projects often really expensive and need to be competitive against other projects.
  - Ability to protect saved water:
    - There's been a lot of efficiency projects- the amount of water instream is complicated and depends on the funding source.
    - In OR, 25% of conserved water needs to go to instream uses. Just piping something doesn't mean that water stays in stream if it is not legally required to be there.
- Conditions for Success
  - Policy tools are complementary – but don't restore flow on their own.
  - Water conservation must include dedicated instream flow amount.
  - Legal protection of instream water rights is complex.
  - Trust and relationship with the community is important.
  - Access to funding.
  - Ability to recognize and design an effective water deal is key.
  - Land use and crop type drive options.

#### **4. Washington State Regulation Strategies, Eric Hartwig, Ecology**

Eric Hartwig, Walla Walla Watermaster, provided an overview of how Ecology regulates the basin, including what happens when a call for water is made.

- When the flow drops and water users have a legal right, Eric will ask how much water they need – not how much they want. Some irrigators do not need their full water right.
  - For example, Touchet Eastside/Westside ID has a water right of 30 cfs in July. This year, they were getting about 17 cfs.
  - Eric will contact water users with a junior priority date and curtail them.
  - He maintains contact with senior water right holders so when the water is not needed, he can turn on the junior water right holders.
- Management tools during a drought:
  - Temporary trust water leases: Forego irrigation during dry parts of the year to keep water instream.
  - Temporary change authorizations to move senior water to higher valued crops:
    - E.g. North Fork Touchet – handful of senior rights on alfalfa field and junior rights on apples and pears. Worked with irrigator to not have to forego apples and pears.
  - Pulse flows of a short duration of non-diversion.
  - Important to touch base with the water users to ensure water needs – knowing what they're doing to manage their crops so we can manage water.
- Possible new tools during a drought:
  - Use of Bennington Lake as a flow through to move water from Mill Creek into the Walla Walla River upstream of Gardena Irrigation District.
    - Worked with NOAA, WDFW, and CTUIR to put water in Bennington Lake this year to dewater Mill Creek. A week and a half later, Bennington Lake started to be emptied into Russel Creek (which goes into Yellowhawk Creek).
    - Retimed Mill Creek into Walla Walla river with approval from fish agencies.

- Potential tool we can use for spring freshet: Use Mill Creek to store late April/early May water to release in mid-May through June or July to help flows in upper Walla Walla to get fish up to Gardena.
  - Do a full river pulse flow in coordination with the irrigators in WA and OR.
  - Potential project: Bluewood Ski Area snowmaking project (5000 gpd) from end of November – mid January to add snowpack and retime cold water down the Touchet.
- Challenges:
  - Focus is protection of water to ensure that it stays instream.
  - Helping the irrigators that pass their water to mitigate possible crop loss and other system modifications.
    - Gardena – their systems are not able to do a pulse flow.
    - Look at options to do upgrades with irrigators to determine how to do a pulse flow or retime water and not have a crop loss.
  - Timing of releases to ensure there are benefits.
- Trust Water in WA part of the WW Basin:
  - Benefits
    - Increase flows in water source.
    - Increase efficiency.
    - Maintains the priority date.
  - Issues
    - Effects tributary flows and groundwater levels.
    - Most trust water is non-consumptive and is only protected at a short distance.
    - Priority date is 1-second junior to original water right when only part is put into trust.

Discussion:

- Mark Wagoner expressed support for using Bennington Lake and it should be explored further if USACOE allows it.
- Tom asked via the chat function whether we regulate any groundwater users during times of drought?
  - No- in the basin, we separate groundwater and surface water from regulation.
- Dale Bambrick added that it would be possible to gravity feed a couple hundred feet ahead of Bennington Lake ahead of Nursery Bridge to extend late spring Chinook migration period if balance spring flows and releasing a few weeks later. Can extract more habitat value by releasing into mainstem rather than concrete channel of Mill Creek.
  - Cindy Boen added via the Google Sheet that there are some considerations for USACOE related to multi-purpose authorities such as maintaining flood space, maintenance, and Biological Opinion requirements to divert water from Bennington Lake ahead of Nursery Bridge. This would be related to timing and volume. Also, water quality in Bennington has not been good in the past, with issues related to temperature and DO.

**5. Strategies from WWWMP, Chris Hyland, WWWMP**

Chris Hyland, WWWMP, provided an overview of the Agreements Not to Divert (ANTDs).

- Background
  - Intention is to create a way to protect water and shepherd it downstream, especially during drought scenarios.
    - E.g. Pulse flows – get downstream users agree not to divert if you created a pulse flow. The idea being that you don't want to do all this work and then other people see the water in the river as available and turn their pumps on.
    - Designed for emergency situations to be signed quickly.
    - No money is changed hands.
  - Looks like the tool will go away in June 2021 when the Partnership sunsets. SPAC can consider if they'd like to request the authority for this when they put forward the request to the legislature.

Discussion:

- Tom asked via the chat function how many times ANTDs were used by the Partnership? He added that per Ecology's trust water right statute, RCW 90.42, we can enter into similar agreements with water right holders "not to divert" as well.
  - Amanda added that while traditionally ANTDs are just contractual and don't involve a legal change to the water right, both WA (RCW 90.42) and OR (OAR 690-077-0075) have the ability to transfer senior water rights to instream flow.

## 6. Options for Instream Protection in Oregon, Chris Kowitz, OWRD

Chris Kowitz, OWRD reviewed instream water rights and methods to protect those rights in OR. Per ORS 527.332 and OAR Chapter 690, Division 77, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department are authorized to request instream water rights.

### Methods to Protect Instream Water Rights

- Instream Transfers: Permanent or time limited.
  - Time limited: can identify how many years to be enforced. Reverts to original place of use and type of use.
- Instream Leases: Slightly less rigorous evaluation. Place of Use and Use to protect water instream. Permanent or time limited.
  - Time limited: one to five years.
  - OWRD has ability to unwind any leases – don't have that option through typical transfer process.
  - Reverts to original use and type of use when expired.
- Allocation of Conserved Water (ACW): State instream water right is created. The minimum portion of the conserved water, 25%, goes to state. It's up to the conserver to say how much should be dedicated for instream purposes.
- Certificates
  - Instream Water Right (ISWR) Certificates change from year to year.
  - ACW Certificates: most are from Teresa Kilmer's work.
    - Applicant or proponent of ACW project has the option to have the same priority date as CU portion or to make it junior by 1-minute so they can make these certificates slightly junior.
- Other management and protection issues
  - Bypass flows: People like WWRID have been in a no man's land because we don't recognize voluntary bypass as a beneficial use under OR water law. There are many water rights through ACW process because it is the only mechanism to protect enough water instream.
  - Legal review: Questions around which decrees are to be used for regulation and distribution activities.
  - Current practices: Truing up current water practices to ensure instream targets are met.
  - Distribution and management.

### Discussion:

- Jonathan Kohr asked why there was little mention of MAR?
  - Once the water goes sub-surface, water right holder has lost control at that point. Unable to differentiate from native water. Open to dialoguing more if that is something that the group finds problematic. MAR is great in the sense that it puts water in the ground that otherwise may not reach the aquifer system.

## **Strategies to be Considered for the Strategic Plan: Streamflows & Groundwater**

Susan introduced the discussion around streamflow and groundwater strategies. The intention of the discussion is to provide input on which strategies the Working Groups (WG) should consider and build out with more technical detail.

Amanda reviewed the [matrices](#). Detailed edits are available on the linked document. A summary of the conversation is below:

- General Comments

- Chris Kowitz added that the USGS Basin GW Study is in its final stages to develop the Scope and Budget and will be out for review soon. He encouraged the SPAC to crosswalk its strategies with the Basin study.
- Tom asked via the interactive Google Sheet whether there are large groundwater users in the Alluvial aquifer that we know would be useful to be converted to the Columbia River Pump exchange?
  - Steven Patten added that most alluvial users are connected to the Gardena or Hudson Bay system for surface water rights.
  - Eric added that quite a few people that rely on the alluvial aquifer. In some places, the alluvial aquifer goes down 900 feet before hitting basalt.
  - Molly Reid added via the chat function that with the institution of the SWMPA (Serious Water Management Problem Area), no new basalt water rights are allowed in the Walla Walla Subbasin in Oregon. This extends beyond the five-mile radius of the City of Milton-Freewater.
- Chris Marks suggested focusing on the subbasins besides Walla Walla River since there will be a joint meeting with the Bi-State Flow Study Steering Committee in December.
- Cindy Boen added that it would be helpful to have more specificity regarding the desired changes to USACOE's operations (e.g. volume and timing). Generally, more specificity of recommended measures and their desired outcome would help evaluate their feasibility (for example: timing, volume, intended outcome or benefit).
- Chris Marks added that the list of strategies is very comprehensive and is getting us to the place where we can prioritize and determine short versus long term priorities. Each of the strategies has the potential to address gaps discussed in the earlier presentations. He added that it does seem like a high priority solution regarding the USGS Study and having the opportunity to inform SOW per these strategies and some of the gaps.
- Little Walla Walla River (LWWR)
  - Judith added that the information on LWWR is comprehensive and that there have been good conversations in the WGs. It would be useful to have target flows for the LWWR system.
    - Gary added that there was not a flow prescription for the LWWR system. For many reasons that have been discussed, emphasis has been on the Tualum Branch because there are concerns about moving fish in the LWWR system. Investments and strategies have focused on fish utilizing the Tualum branch. Target flows in LWWR would be more focused on CU goals, floodplain health, and aquifer health rather than target flows for fish needs like the Stillwater Sciences report was.
      - Judith agreed with the recommendations to set targets for floodplain restoration and to restore flows for irrigators.
      - Chris Kowitz suggested that if there is a desire from the group to identify a target, should add ongoing legal, policy decisions around flows down the LWWR as a policy strategy.
    - Chris Marks added that fishery people are happy to consider LWWR as an input to flows for the Walla Walla River.
- Touchet River:
  - Chris Marks added that the Bi-State Flow Study is trying to quantify the deficit to figure out how much water we are trying to make up. To his knowledge, this has not been completed on the Touchet. This is an important step to inform the strategies.
    - **Action Item:** Work with WGs to see what data is available and flag the data gaps.
- Next steps:
  - Identify the criteria to help prioritize strategies.
  - Quantify the deficit of water that we are looking for and the timing.
  - Conduct multi-criteria analysis to determine priority projects.

Susan encouraged SPAC members to take a step back and reflect on what strategies your entity would like to see considered in the strategic plan. Don't hesitate to chime in and ask questions. You are encouraged to check in with one another

## Public Comment

*No comments.*

## Updates and Next Steps

### Upcoming Meetings:

Caroline reviewed the [WG and SPAC Discussion Topics](#) document to review the process to sequence key topics for the strategic plan.

Susan asked for input on topics to discuss at upcoming meetings. SPAC members discussed who should present at the upcoming meetings:

- December 16: Water Supply Needs
  - This is a joint meeting with Bi-State Flow Study.
- January: critical species and habitat
- February: surface water quality and land use
- Arnold added that LWWR should be treated as a separate subbasin – far-reaching in terms of groundwater, springs. Most of us didn't know that the control gate is to put water into the Tumalum branch.
- Todd Kimball suggested a presentation on the unintended consequences of previous work done in the basin. (E.g. Piping projects hurt alluvial aquifer due to less infiltration from open ditch)

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## **Appendix A. Attendance**

### **SPAC Members in Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Baker, Troy (alternate)	WWBWC
Bambrick, Dale	NMFS, NOAA
Boen, Cindy	USACE
Dymecki, Sarah	WWT
Johnson, Judith	WWWMP, <i>Ex-Officio</i>
Kilmer, Teresa	Walla Walla River ID
Kimball, Todd	Walla Walla County
Kowitz, Chris	OWRD
Marks, Chris	CTUIR
Newhouse, Allie	Little River Group
Patten, Steven	City of Milton-Freewater
Tebb, Tom	Ecology, <i>Ex-Officio</i>
Wachtel, Mark	WDFW
Wagonner, Mark	Gardena Farms Irrigation District

### **SPAC Members Not in Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Byerley, Annie	WA Irrigation at-large
Shafer, John	Umatilla County
Talbott, Mike	Columbia County

### **Other Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Beard, Chris	Ecology
Beeler, Brook	Ecology
Birdsall, Doug	WWWMP
Brown, Ron	
Burney, Caroline	Cascadia Consulting
Campbell, Jon	DWWF
Christensen, Dave	Ecology
Coe, Arnold	WWWMP
Cronin, Amanda	Amp Insights
Dengel, Jeff	WDFW
Fagan, Colleen	NMFS, NOAA
Fairbanks, Laurie	Walla Walla Parks and Rec board members volunteer
Gardipe, Jamie	DOH Office of Drinking Water
Gulick, Susan	Sound Resolutions
Hadley, Renee	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Haire, David	CTUIR
Hall, Martin Jerald	
Hartwig, Eric	Ecology
Hooper, Jon	
Hyland, Chris	WWWMP
James, Gary	CTUIR
Kernan, Megan	WDFW
Kohr, Jonathan	WDFW
Lockwood, Ethan	WWT
Melcher, Austin	Ecology
Navarrete, Laura	USFW
Neve, Bill	Water Right Solutions
Nicholson, Frank	City of Walla Walla
Redfield, Joye	Ecology

<b>Reid, Molly</b>	GeoEngineers
<b>Sater, Chet</b>	US Bureau of Reclamation
<b>Spangrude, Gene</b>	
<b>Tarbutton, Scott</b>	Ecology
<b>Warriner, John</b>	Aspect Consulting

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