

# Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee (BAC)

## Meeting Summary Wednesday, June 22, 2022 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### In-Person Meeting at Walla Walla Community College & Field Trip to Milton Freewater

Time*	Agenda	Reference Materials	Presenter(s)
<b>1:00</b> <i>(15 mins)</i>	<b>Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and opening remarks</li> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Review agenda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Marks, on behalf of Tri-Sovereigns</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>1:15*</b> <i>(60 mins)</i>	<b>WA Legislation to Support Implementation of the WWW 2050 Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of draft legislative concepts</li> <li>Review of OR process</li> <li>BAC Member Questions/Discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft legislative language</li> <li>Overview of OR process to formalize commitment to WWW 2050 Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Tebb, Ecology</li> <li>Chris Kowitz, OWRD</li> <li>BAC Members</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>2:15*</b> <i>(30 mins)</i>	<b>Updates, Agenda Requests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project and funding updates from BAC members</li> <li>Update on Recent Working Group Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation WG 6/9/22</li> </ul> </li> <li>Upcoming BAC and WG Meetings</li> <li>Agenda or field trip requests from BAC members (BAC or Working Groups)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitation Team</li> <li>BAC Members</li> </ul>
<b>2:45*</b> <i>(10 mins)</i>	<b>Public Comment</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>2:55*</b> <i>(5 mins)</i>	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next Steps</li> <li>Closing comments</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amanda Cronin, Project Manager</li> <li>Brook Beeler, on behalf of Tri-Sovereigns</li> </ul>
<b>3:00</b> <i>(2 hours including travel)</i>	<b>FIELD TRIP: Walla Walla River in Milton Freewater</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field trip to see and discuss current and future project work on the Walla Walla River in Milton Freewater, OR.</li> <li>Information from CTUIR, WWRID and WWBWC</li> <li>BAC member questions/discussion</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CTUIR</li> <li>WWRID</li> <li>WWBWC</li> </ul>
<b>5:00*</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>

Chris Marks, CTUIR, welcomed attendees to the June Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting and expressed hope that everyone brought comments and questions on the draft legislation. He reminded attendees that this BAC meeting included a field trip and thanked all for attending.

Susan Gulick, facilitator, reviewed the agenda and led roll call. Attendees are listed in **Appendix A. Attendees**.

## **WA Legislation to Support Implementation of the WWW 2050 Strategic Plan**

### Introduction by Ecology (Tom Tebb):

Ecology looked at three different approaches when drafting the legislation. Ultimately, Ecology decided to amend the Office of Columbia River's (OCR) statute, rather than create a new program, because a new program could compete with existing programs for funding. The decision to amend the Office's statute signifies the importance of the Walla Walla watershed work to both OCR and Ecology as a whole.

Tom presented the first draft of the potential request legislation and BAC members shared comments, edits, and questions.

### Discussion:

- Chris Marks commented that this legislation is a “roll-up” of multiple ongoing efforts that are consistent with the WWW2050 Plan and asked whether the legislation could apply to existing water in the basin, rather than just new water created after plan implementation.
  - Ecology agreed that they could clarify that the legislation can apply to existing water.
- Steve Martin commented on the definition of “new water supplies” in Section 7. To him, “new water supply” excludes reserved or reused water, and he suggested clarifying what “new water supplies” includes.
  - Ecology clarified that any water supply resulting from strategic plan project implementation to support in-stream flow targets should be considered new water.
- Judith Johnson suggested that the language in Section 6 be broadened to allow Washington state dollars to be used for all project types, not just construction. In particular, “implementation” should be added into the sentence. She expressed concern that this Section communicated support for big infrastructure at the expense of other projects.
- Cindy Boen asked about who is responsible for paying for long-term costs, based on the language in Section 8.
  - Ecology added that while they will sponsor this legislation, there will always have to be local support from elected officials and water users.
  - Marie Sullivan asked about the state precedent concerning Section 8, wondering whether the state funded 50% of total project costs in other comparable basins, like the Yakima and Odessa Basins.
    - Ecology answered that the 50% covered by state funding was consistent with the Yakima Basin, but in the Odessa Basin, landowners account for a larger percentage of funding than the state.
  - John Foltz questioned Section 8's mechanism of accounting for state funds, asking whether Section 8 intended *all* state funding to fall under the 50% limit, or just funding from OCR?
    - Ecology mentioned they would clarify this language, and John Foltz agreed to the need for clarification, adding that we will need to bring in matching funds from federal sources.
    - Marie stated that the 50% of total project costs should only apply to Ecology and OCR, rather than the entire state.
- Mike Frederickson suggested that the word “business” needs to be included as a listed interest in Section 3, and that industrial users be recognized in Section 2. He agreed with the comments on Section 8, stating that we should push for the 50% of total project costs to be specified as OCR funding, rather than from other funding sources.
- Susan Gulick asked BAC members for their thoughts about keeping the language of the legislation broad versus specific, mentioning that the more specific the language of statute, the less flexibility we have for future changes.
  - Frank Nicholson and Cindy both agreed that flexibility is desirable. Cindy expressed her support for leaving the legislation broad, saying that the broader you make legislation, the more flexibility you have with tools and methods for achieving your desired outcomes.
  - Mike Ingham expressed concern that there are gaps in the BAC's representation and expressed a desire to name specific irrigators within the legislation to ensure that agricultural interests always have a seat in the BAC.
    - Susan asked for clarification about Mike's comment, saying that the two BAC representatives from WA agriculture and two representatives from OR agriculture, including irrigation districts, are intended to represent broad agricultural interests (not just their own interests).
    - Tom Tebb added that we could create an agricultural interests committee, and that representative gaps could be fixed within the structure of the BAC, rather than in the legislature.
    - Mike clarified his comment, saying that the legislature could name the parties that sit on the BAC, so that groups who will always have a major interest, such as Gardena Farms, will always have a statutory role in the committee.
    - Several BAC members asked Mike for further clarification. Mike added that Gardena Farms should not have to worry about being on the BAC in future years, mentioning how the Tri-Sovereigns could remove them from the BAC at any time. Mark Wagoner added that, as irrigators, their livelihoods depended on the water. They are the only ones on the BAC whose lives are tied to the water, and as fourth generation farmers, they want to ensure that their way of life can continue in the Basin.

- Todd Kimball added to Mike’s comments, pointing out that when the Gardena Farms wanted to add Mike as an alternate, Mike had to be approved by the Tri-Sovereigns. This approval process de-legitimizes the BAC members’ “self-selection” process.
  - Chris Marks addressed Mike and Mark’s concerns, saying that the Tri-Sovereigns are not looking to kick anyone off the BAC, and suggested that the BAC’s Operating Procedures could be edited, rather than in the legislative request. He expressed wariness about creating a list of representatives within the statute itself.
  - Ecology reiterated that they are committing time, money, and staff to build trust and to create more water in the Basin. The only way to be successful is to work with each other and to work on all aspects of water in the Basin. He encouraged BAC members to send their written comments and suggested edits to the legislation to Ecology so they can revise the draft language accordingly.
- Todd Kimball commented that the phrase “affected tribes” in Section 4 concerned him, saying that the phrase would allow any tribe on the Columbia River to claim they are affected. Should we name the three affected tribes instead?
  - Chris Marks suggested adding the phrase “federally recognized tribes,” and added that consultation with tribes along the Columbia River will be part of this process Consulting with tribes will strengthen regional support.

## Updates, Agenda Requests

### Project and Funding Updates

- Frank shared several project updates from the City of Walla Walla:
  - The City of Walla Walla received FEMA Hazard Mitigation funding to conduct a study on wildfire risk and mitigation in the upper Basin. Wildfire poses a threat to the water supply of the City of Walla Walla and the entire watershed, so the study will look at strategies to protect the headwaters and the City’s drinking water supply.
  - The City of Walla Walla is working with Washington Water Trust (WWT) on its Mill Creek ASR project, and has signed a 5-year lease for additional water left in Mill Creek in the summertime.
- Tom Tebb shared that the Basin Study is in the process of drafting a proposal document for the grant process, which is due July 29.
- Scott Tarbutton shared an update on the Flow Study, mentioning that they received comments back from Jacobs and are in the middle of contract negotiations.
  - Additionally, the study is looking to stay close to the scope, and the first Flow Study working group will meet in August. They will review where we left off and chart a course for the next two years under the new contract.
- Jaime Short shared an update about metering. Staff will conduct targeted outreach through site visits, trying to get folks back on board.
- Amanda Cronin shared an update on the latest Implementation Working Group (WG) meeting, on June 9. WWT presented an overview on their dashboard of water rights acquisition and discussed their Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart application which includes a request to create a similar dashboard for the Walla Walla Basin. The WG also discussed a monitoring strategy for the Basin.
  - Chris Marks thanked the consulting team, Ecology, and the Implementation WG for moving project details forward.
- John Foltz shared an updated from Columbia County’s Levy Group, who selected a consultant for their comprehensive flood management plan update.
  - Additionally, the Mill Creek Workgroup had their first in-person meeting and heard exciting news about the Bennington Fish Ladder. They visited the Spring Chinook fish ladder, which was a wonderful validation of all the work by the Tribe, the basin, and the implementers.
- Caroline Burney shared an update that four letters of support are complete, and gave a reminder about the letters of support process. She shared the [Letters of Support Request Form](#) in the chat.
- Susan Gulick shared the updated logo (see [Appendix B. Updated Logo](#)), based on everyone’s comments and revisions.

### Upcoming meetings & potential agenda topics

- Policy, Funding, and Outreach WG: June 23, 9 – 11 AM
- BAC: July 27th, 1-4 PM
  - Presentation from USGS
  - Finalize the draft legislation
- No August BAC meeting

## Public Comment

*No comments*

## Closing Comments

Brook Beeler closed the meeting by asking attendees to send any feedback about meeting technology to Susan or Amanda, and then reminded attendees to send written edits for the legislation to Ecology. Ecology will revise and have a new draft for the July BAC meeting. She concluded by mentioning her excitement for the field trip to Oregon.

## Appendix A. Attendees

### WWBAC Members & Alternates

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Annie	Byerley	Walla Walla Partnership
Brook	Beeler	Ecology
Chris	Kowitz	OWRD
Chris	Marks	CTUIR
Cindy	Boen	USACE
Colleen	Fagan	NMFS, NOAA
Dan	Dorran	Umatilla County
Frank	Nicholson	City of Walla Walla
Jerry	Norquist	Community Member
John	Foltz	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Judith	Johnson	Kooskooskie Commons
Linda	Herbert	Blue Mountain Land Trust
Mark	Wagoner	Gardena Farms Irrigation District
Melissa	Downes	Ecology
Mike	Frederickson	Port of Walla Walla
Mike	Ingham	Gardena Farms Irrigation District
Nicholas	Velluzzi	Walla Walla Community College
Ralph	Perkins	WWBWC
Sarah	Dymecki	WWT
Steve	Martin	WDFW
Steven	Patten	City of Milton-Freewater
Todd	Kimball	Walla Walla County
Tom	Tebb	Ecology
Travis	Trumbull	WWRID

### WWBAC Members Not in Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Allie	Newhouse	OR Irrigation at-large
Gary	James	CTUIR
Justin	Yeager	NOAA NMFS
Randy	Jones	ODEQ
Renee	Hadley	Walla Walla County Conservation District

### Other Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Alle	Brown-Law	Cascadia Consulting
Amanda	Cronin	Amp Insights
Caroline	Burney	Cascadia Consulting
Dan	Haller	Aspect Consulting
Eric	Hartwig	Ecology
Jamie	Clark	DOH
Jaime	Short	Ecology
Janna	Stevens	ODFW
Mary	Verner	Ecology
Marie	Sullivan	CTUIR WA State Lobbyist

<b>Rebekah</b>	Triolo	USBR
<b>Scott</b>	Tarbutton	Ecology
<b>Stephanie</b>	May	Ecology
<b>Susan</b>	Gulick	Sound Resolutions
<b>Teresa</b>	Kilmer	Walla Walla River ID
<b>Tim</b>	Poppleton	Ecology
<b>Troy</b>	Baker	WWBWC

**Appendix B. Updated Logo**

