

WALLA WALLA BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Room 2023-24 | Water & Environment Center at WWCC | 640 Water Center Drive

Hybrid Meeting

Time*	Agenda Item (Action items are marked with "I")	Reference Materials	Presenter(s)
1:00 (10 min)	Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and opening remarks Introductions Review agenda 	Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Kowitz, OWRD, on behalf of the Tri-Sovereigns Alexandra Doty, Cascadia Amanda Cronin, Project Manager
1:10* (30 min)	Tiger-Mill Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background and update on the Tiger-Mill Project Discussion and questions from the BAC 	Tiger Mill Story Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnny Collin and Joseph Sciarrino, Umatilla NF
1:40* (25 min)	OCR Project Proposal Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the proposed process for prioritizing projects for the OCR capital budget funding as suggested by the Implementation WG 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scott Tarbutton, Ecology Amanda Cronin, Project Manager
2:05* (25 min)	Follow up on 2024 Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the summarized 2024 priorities 	Summary of 2024 BAC Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Cronin, Project Manager
<i>There will be a 10-minute BREAK around 2:30</i>			
2:40* (15 min)	BAC Caucus Vacancies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAC caucus process reminder 	BAC Caucus Process Discussion Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAC Members Amanda Cronin, Project Manager Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia
2:55* (20 min)	Outreach Items: Website and Local Outreach Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on website Feedback on local outreach proposal 	Draft local outreach proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlotte Regula-Whitefield, OWRD Troy Baker, WWBWC Renee Hadley, WWCD
3:15 (10 min)	Oregon Legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview and update on OR legislation 	SB 1567	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Kowitz, OWRD
3:25* (25 min)	Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates from each working group Project and funding updates from BAC members Field trip and agenda ideas Other updates? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation Team BAC Members
3:50 (5 mins)	Public Comment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Cronin, Project Manager
3:55* (5 min)	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps Closing comments 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Cronin, Project Manager Melissa Downes, ECY, on behalf of Tri-Sovereigns
4:15 – 5:30pm	WW BAC Happy Hour! <i>The Green Lantern Tavern (1606 E. Isaacs Ave, Walla Walla WA 99362)</i>		

*All times are approximate and may change.



Welcome, Introductions

- Chris Kowitz, OWRD, thanked everyone for coming and noted that he is excited to discuss progress on local outreach, updates on the Oregon legislation and continuing the 2024 priorities conversation.
- Alexandra Doty introduced herself as the new BAC facilitator. She reviewed the agenda and led roll call. Attendees are listed in [Appendix A. Attendees](#).

Tiger-Mill Project

Presentation, US Forest Service

- The Tiger-Mill area is complex management challenge. Since 1918, Mill Creek has been a closed municipal watershed (with no allowed uses except administrative), based on an agreement between the Forest Service and the City of Walla Walla. The City of Walla Walla has been closely engaged in the Tiger-Mill project.
- The purpose of the Tiger-Mill project is to avoid high-severity wildfires that will affect water quality within the Mill Creek watershed, and make stands more resilient to wildfires and climate change. The ultimate goals of the Tiger-Mill project are to protect the surface water and ecosystem services that this area provides, and restore vegetation that has changed based on past management practices. The [Tiger-Mill Story Map](#) provides background information about the project.
- In the Walla Walla Basin, the dominant forest management strategy has been wildfire suppression.
- USFS is considering two alternatives, and they are currently finalizing the analysis of both alternatives. Part of their analysis includes the impacts to riparian habitat conservation areas. They aim to release the environmental assessment in spring 2024. The proposed action includes:
 - Commercial thinning: 6,964 acres.
 - Non-commercial thinning: 4,619 acres.
 - Commercial thinning in collaboration with landowners and management agencies: 2,379 acres.
 - Prescribed burning: ~20,000 acres.
- USFS is proposing 20,000 acres of prescribed burning. Prescribed fire will return fire to a landscape where it has previously been suppressed. Prescribed burns are a very effective method for reducing surface fuels to modify fire spread especially in steeper areas where mechanical treatments are not feasible.
- The Tiger-Mill project will also improve road systems through maintenance and reconstruction if needed. USFS will augment the Potential Control Lines (PCLs) to make them more easily accessible in case of wildfire. PCLs are areas where large fires historically tend to stop or lull due to topographic features. USFS often uses PCLs to access and attack large-scale fires. The Tiger-Mill project will also improve water crossings.
- Tiger-Mill implementation will likely take between 10-15 years, depending on funding. USFS anticipates new technology will be available to use in the project, and is hoping to be very successful in securing funding, since this is a high priority area.

Discussion and Questions

- A BAC member asked, for the 20,000 acres of prescribed burning, how many of those are within the municipal Mill Creek watershed and how many are outside the municipal watershed? And similarly, for commercial thinning?
 - USFS answered that for prescribed burns, the predominate acreage is within the Mill Creek watershed, with a smaller number outside. Predominate commercial thinning is outside the Mill Creek watershed.
- A BAC member commented that the habitat of the south-facing slopes is predominately grass with stringers that are important for wildlife. They also asked about how Tiger-Mill will impact high-elevation alpine fir.
 - USFS answered that prescribed burns on the south-facing slopes would be a prescribed low-severity fire, which means there will be a lowered mortality rate. After the prescribed burn, there will usually be an increase in wildlife, due to fresh tree and shrub shoots. The fuel load is predominantly in the northern-facing slopes, but it is best for fire management to treat ridge-to-ridge.
 - For the subalpine firs, there will be minimal activity within the cold forest zone, since those areas tend to burn in high-severity fires.



- A BAC member asked how USFS is coordinating with state and county fire organizations.
 - USFS responded that both Washington and Oregon have management plans in place and are providing funding and staff for forest management. For the most part, USFS has felt aligned with the state and local agencies and has collaborated with state agencies to do prescribed burns before.
 - A BAC member commented that the Tiger-Mill project is a great example of coordination across all levels of government; federal partners in Washington DC know of the Tiger-Mill project.
- A BAC member asked if USFS plans on increasing the roads within the Mill Creek watershed?
 - USFS answered that, within the boundaries of the watershed, there will be no new roads. USFS isn't even allowed to create temporary roads for the project. There are some unauthorized roads within the area, and USFS will decommission and limit access to those roads through the Tiger-Mill project.
- BAC members and USFS discussed success stories of other prescribed burns. USFS noted that there are many success stories of combining fuel treatment and prescribed burning. These management practices change the effects and impacts of wildfires. It makes the area safer and easier to avoid catastrophic wildfire events. USFS also described a pilot project in Tiger Canyon, where USFS is working with CTUIR to monitor turbidity above and below the burn. USFS follows state water quality standards and TMDLs to ensure that water temperature standards are maintained.
- A BAC member asked what success looks like for the Tiger-Mill Project.
 - USFS answered that success would include treating all the mechanical areas they aim to treat and putting fire back into the system. They'd like to treat as many acres as possible.
- A BAC member asked for available data about sediment from fires.
 - USFS will share relevant studies and datasets with the BAC after the meeting.
- BAC members offered to continue supporting the Tiger-Mill project, either through letters of support from the BAC, or BAC member organizations sharing information about the project to their communities. They invited USFS to stay involved with the BAC and the WW2050 effort.

OCR Capital Biennial Project Funding

Overview, Amanda Cronin and Melissa Downes (Ecology)

- Amanda shared that the BAC needs to begin discussing which projects are ready for the next round of OCR capital project funding for the 2025-2027 biennium. The initial step is to set up sub-workgroups within the Implementation Working Group. The sub-workgroups will be made up of subject matter experts, who can meet and discuss the proposed projects. The sub-workgroups will recommend projects to the Implementation WG and the BAC. The BAC will ultimately make the final recommendations to the Tri-Sovereigns.
- Melissa commented that Ecology's budget is due to the Office of Financial Management in September. We don't need to iron out every detail, but we need to have a sense of our total funding ask. In 2023, OCR received \$4.3 million for WW2050 work. About \$2.2 million went to project implementation, and the remainder covered the facilitation contract, the USGS Groundwater Study, and other long-term efforts. Ecology is looking at requesting around \$5 million in 2025-27.

Discussion

- BAC members discussed the potential for restructuring the BAC working groups, separately from this project prioritization effort.
 - Amanda noted that, eventually, we do want to move to a more topic-based model. This is still undetermined, and needs further discussion with the BAC and Tri-Sovereigns.
- A BAC member suggested that it may help to phase sub-workgroups chronologically. The member noted it may help to prioritize the sub-workgroups or topics we're hoping to identify and settle on.
- A BAC member shared that with 2025 and the salmon coming back, the public will really get behind that. Any project that highlights that should get an extra bonus point.
 - CTUIR has a huge investment in the fisheries.



- Taylor shared that the salmon are hopefully coming back!! Not guaranteed. Have to be realistic about the process.
- Amanda shared that we'll be putting out a call for sub-workgroup participation as well as a call for project submittal.
- A BAC member noted some confusion in thinking about the sub-workgroups as doing more than just the OCR funding, having participated in the process last year.
 - The task of sub-workgroups goes beyond OCR funding – so have to think carefully about this.
- Melissa shared that success breeds success. A few weeks ago, 8 of 14 agreements for this biennium were in place and starting implementation. Melissa urged the projects that don't have an agreement in place to please start to work on the agreement. Melissa noted that ECY needs to prove that we are using this money and implementing. There are some things that were heavily funded this biennium (like the USGS groundwater study) that won't be funded through this new budget so we will have more funding available for project implementation.
 - Scott confirmed that there are 8 active grants/contracts, and 6 contracts are still being finalized.
 - Tom shared that ECY will be seeking up to \$5.5M through the OCR process, and urged that we've got to put this money to work. Please work on finalizing your contract. Tom underscored that it's hard to say no to a group of people who have diverse opinions but who are agreeing on the projects that need funding.
 - Melissa reminded BAC members and project proponents to keep in mind geographic diversity and strategy diversity as well!

2024 Priorities Summary

- Amanda reviewed the priorities that came out of the January BAC meeting discussion.

Discussion

- A BAC member shared that discussions are underway with the states and tribes on the pulse flows. The member would like to get WDFW involved to talk about the timing of that, and would like to use 2024 as a model so we know what we're doing for next year.
 - Amanda responded that the streamflow restoration item on the 2024 priorities list includes pulse flows as one streamflow restoration tool.
- A BAC member recommended looking again at Tier 1 and see if our feelings have changed about Tier 1 strategies as well. This member noted this can be added to the "reconsider Tier 2 and 3" priorities.
- Chris K. shared that there are other stream restoration tools that are well defined – leasing, for example. Chris doesn't have a good idea exactly what's being considered for pulse flows. Chris noted OWRD needs to evaluate how pulse flows would work and provide some feedback from OWRD.
 - Taylor shared that the fisheries managers and Jeff are trying to work out pulse flow logistics, how it would work, where to release that water. There was some necessary data from CTUIR related to PIT tag movement within the systems. Can we use those flows to benefit both smolts and adults? Taylor noted that the group hasn't been able to meet again. Taylor noted they are trying to figure this out so we can present it to the water managers. Taylor would like to try to figure out the benefits to adults and juveniles.
- A BAC member shared thanks for the discussion. WDFW is anticipating PIT tag data soon, they received travel time data for both juvenile and adults. While that info was on it's way, WDFW noted they are trying to work through the administrative piece. They had been working on the Oregon side, and then ECY and WDFW met to discuss protecting this water under the WA Legislation. WDFW will try to work through a couple scenarios and work with irrigators. Since we last met, we have further developed the "how do we do this?" and "can we do this?"
 - Amanda recapped that a pulse flow project could be implemented with or without testing the developed water concept under RCW 90.90.120 . Maybe in March we can hear an update for any planned 2024 flow augmentation activities. Amanda noted that the big picture is helpful, and the language in the summary notes that pulse flows are part of streamflow restoration.
- A BAC member noted that those PIT tags are essential to figuring out how fish move through the system, to then better understand how to move fish through the system. Fewer number of PIT tags will make it more difficult to understand the impact of pulse flows. There is a significant gap between the data. Pertaining to fish, Taylor would

like to see improving PIT tag infrastructure within the basin as a 2024 priority. This is helpful for fisheries managers. Could be a possible OCR funding proposal or federal funding proposal.

- Amanda noted that where pulse flows have been successful in other places, implementors do their best to match the pulse flow to fish needs but that perfect timing isn't always realistic. Implementation of pulse flows relies on the voluntary cooperation of irrigators. Testing the pulse flow idea in 2024 could allow refinement of the concept in 2025 when high numbers of spring Chinook are expected.
- Amanda asked about the distributary system integrated plan: who the lead would be here?
 - Judith shared that this is in the idea stage and has talked to a number of potential partners. Judith shared that she would be the lead person to bring people together and get something fleshed out so we could have some more information by the March BAC meeting.
- A BAC member asked are we looking for people to take some of these priorities, champion and move it forward? If yes, it may be worthwhile to have a forum to talk about winter water, including to lay some legal considerations down to better understand what flexibility we have about winter water use. The member noted that they want to understand what we can do from a regulatory or distributary standpoint, and wants to discuss winter water from a common understanding of what could be possible.
- Amanda noted that if BAC members have a tier 2 or 3 strategy that you would like to elevate to please let the facilitation team know.
- A BAC member shared that a few ag interests are trying to get more farmers talking, and bring them to a table to talk about the ag solution. Farmers don't talk to each other very much and have been chewing on this for a year and gained some more traction recently. Unclear if it deserves to be on the priority list yet, but might consider adding an ag solution to the list, as the ag interests need to get together to figure out what's happening.
 - A BAC member noted the increased discussion for diverse ag voices/interests/Ag Caucus, and there is a similar priority on the Tri-Sov list.

BAC Caucus Vacancies

- Amanda reminded folks of the caucus process, and Alexandra led a consensus decision process for the following caucuses.
- Chris K. nominated Ross Deardorff as his alternate. No approval necessary by the BAC.

Federal Government Caucus:

- The Federal Government Caucus nominated Shawn Nelson, Chief of Hydraulics and Hydrology with US Army Corps of Engineers as an alternate to Cindy Boen.
- A BAC member asked if Shawn was in Cindy's office, and Cindy confirmed yes Shawn is in Walla Walla.
- **The BAC approved Shawn Nelson by consensus to fill the open alternate seat.**

State Government Caucus:

- The State Government Caucus nominated Cole Hendrickson, Integrated Water Resources Specialist with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as an alternate to Taylor McCroskey. There were no questions from the BAC.
- **The BAC approved Cole Hendrickson by consensus to fill the open alternate seat.**

Outreach Items: Website/Outreach Proposal

Website – Charlotte

- Over the last couple months, Charlotte has built a [brand new website](#). It's currently live. Wallawallawater.com, .org, .net – all three domains go to the site. The website is a communal place for information – shared info, voices, and vision. The website shares the 2050 Strategic Plan and the work of the BAC. Charlotte hopes to have a finalized website by the end of March.
- Submit events to Charlotte via email or through the form on the website.
- Charlotte requested that BAC members please submit photos and bios for inclusion on the website.



- If anyone has any sort of handouts or information to share – Charlotte will add them to the Resources tab.
- Chris K. thanked Charlotte for navigating the bureaucracy of the government to build the site, and is excited to have this site – hoping people use this. Chris wants BAC members all to provide some good feedback or resources to use this site and wants this to be the spot for reference and central access for information.
- A BAC member recommended adding a link to the Tiger-Mill project storymap.

Draft Local Outreach Proposal

- Troy presented that the goal of the project is to elevate community awareness and support for the WWW2050 Strategy. Key partners on the proposal are the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, the Walla Walla County Conservation District, OWRD, and Ecology. Troy noted the team is trying to meet once a month to stay on track and aligned with project goals.
- The PFO, BAC, and Tri-Sovereigns will review the creative materials built through this project.
- The local outreach project approach is multifaceted –
 - Task 1 – develop a comprehensive tool kit
 - Task 2 – attend existing community gatherings
 - Task 3 – cohost some new community events.
 - Task 4 – develop a community survey to gauge community needs to track engagement.
- Troy shared that through the Water and Wine seminar series, the team wants to make sure that we're reaching the general public at a pub-talk style event. Need good outreach to encourage attendance.
- Troy and the project team presented to the PFO working group. Feedback from the PFO included:
 - There are many outlets that the proposal doesn't include.
 - This proposal is focused on events that will reach the broadest audience we could. By creating outreach kits – leverage those tools so everyone can utilize those toolkits while they attend their own events.
 - Water and Wine series – winery-goers may not be inclusive.
 - Plan to test a pub talk in Oregon – will see how successful that is.
 - Emphasizes agriculture-centric nature of the Walla Walla Basin.
 - Appears to be a lack of targeting youth.
 - We do have organizations that already have youth programs to reach that need. Youth can be targeted as a more specific target is developed in the future.
 - What are the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for tracking new engagement for the proposal.
 - The community survey is the largest source of tracking new engagement for the proposal. Track new and repeat engagement.
 - Survey questions will be shaped and vetted by the Tri-Sovs, the BAC and the PFO Working Group
- Renee added that this is a collaborative approach and is trying to amplify a lot of the pathways that we've established. They have found that consistency is key to successful outreach, this proposal is for the next year or so, ultimately, we'll need to have consistent events year-in-year-out, and hopes to build up the reputation of service and events.

Discussion

- A BAC member shared that he has a methodology question on the survey – how will it be distributed, and to whom? What's the method of collecting the data?
 - Troy noted that they will have an electronic survey with QR codes on the outreach information, and will send the information to the survey online. They want to collect that data electronically as that is the easiest way to compile info quickly and get into a form that can be analyzed appropriately.
 - Nick Velluzzi offered to provide guidance and oversight on that survey. The college has Qualtrics, so offered to be a resource and support.
- The City of Walla Walla has hired a new PR staff person in the public works department, and the newsletter goes out to 11,000 people. Frank would like the PR people to attend the PFO meetings so they can be clued in.
 - Troy asked Frank to please get the PR person in touch with Troy, that would be great!



- Charlotte shared that they are really excited for this work as a good first step to continue the outreach work in this Basin. Through the connections between BAC members they hope it snowballs. Stephanie and Charlotte are excited to be fully partnering on this. Hopefully this is just a start for outreach. Hoping to figure out the nuance and this work to continue.
- Troy noted there will be periodic updates back to the BAC, and will share updates in the PFO and BAC meetings during the updates section. As noted in the proposal, there will be written updates for each event.

Oregon Legislation

- Senator Hansel reintroduced SB 1567 this year, which includes basically the same language from last year, with some small tweaks. The legislation directs OWRD to work with CTUIR and WA to implement the 2050 Plan. It identifies that OR will share in the cost of implementing the 2050 Plan, and demonstrates a commitment, like WA.
- The legislation also notes that OR will work on a bi-state water management framework.
- The legislation requires updates through a legislative report by June 30, 2026 on recommendations for bi-state water management. Ecology is doing the same thing, but is due to the WA Legislature by 2025.
 - Dave Christensen is leading this for Ecology.
- Chris K. thanked everyone who provided testimony during the committee hearings.
 - The bill passed through Senate and went through the House committee. It's going to a floor vote tomorrow (2/29).
 - Expect an update in the March BAC meeting.
- Anton shared that the bill received a tremendous reception in the House committee yesterday. Thank you for all your support!
- Chris K. noted that this was a very painless legislative process, which is always great!

Discussion

- No additional questions or comments.

Updates

- PFO WG met (2/7/24) and had a very in-depth discussion about the outreach proposal and materials.
- Implementation WG (2/15/2024) met and discussed the OCR process, heard updates on two irrigation projects. The Implementation WG also talked about two sets of flow targets through the bi-state flow study and Stillwater. The decision was to clarify language on what we mean by targets and how those two target groups relate to each other.

Project and Funding Updates:

- Ecology Local Drought Preparedness Funding – WWCCD and WWT are applying for this:
 - \$1.8 million total, proposals are due by March 14. It's a pilot competitive grant. Focus on low-income tribal, or overburdened communities. Want to discuss bi-state, 4 county effort.
 - Funding would go through WWCCD, but would be done in collaboration with WWT and everyone on the BAC. The plan is to hire a consultant to develop the drought plan, and assess the factors that make the Basin vulnerable to drought.
 - Goals of the proposal are to create a bi-state, multi-county document that addresses basin wide issues. Build off existing efforts – more comprehensive, inclusive, rather than siloed efforts. Want the project to address water users, fish species, and communities. Similar to the county's hazard mitigation plan.
 - Reached out to the Tri-Sovereigns and got strong support!
 - If anyone has any input or thoughts you want to share – please reach out to Annie or Sarah!
 - Cindy asked what are the metrics? How is Ecology measuring overburdened communities?

- There's the WA State Environmental Health Disparities map, and the EJSscreen (EPA). Annie is pushing the bi-state piece of this because the overburdened community piece may not be as relevant to the entire Basin.
 - Amanda noted the Critical Low Flow Plan that the partnership wrote.
 - Annie wants the proposal to be very inclusive and comprehensive – please be involved! And it is a Tier 1 Strategy.
- Frank shared an update that FEMA gave the City of WW a \$0.5M grant to protect facilities from fire and disasters, and shared that AMP was part of the team that won this contract. Trying to figure out how we can consolidate a bit and get some economy of scale.
 - Amanda shared that it seems like an opportunity to broaden the BAC tent and get to some of these upland issues. In March, we can put it on the agenda to talk about as a group – one potential could be to have a sub-workgroup to connect to 2050 – built efficiencies – stakeholder group who are interested in those upland issues. Project hasn't really kicked off yet but we'll get back to you with some ideas. BAC feedback would be helpful.
- Frank shared that he asked for a LOS for the Well #5. Ecology asked the City to study the aquifer more and plan to push the project timeline back a year or so.
- Annie shared that they just got \$20K from a riparian grant.
- Annie submitted a \$2.4M Streamflow Restoration Grant to replace Gardena Siphon and be able to pipe the 11 miles of the canal. There was a BAC LOS for that too.
- Chris K. wants to amplify the work that Sarah Dymecki is doing to expand water transactions work into Oregon. Continuing to spread the word about the water transactions work and funding available for that. Send people interested in water right transactions to Sarah.
- Taylor shared the fisheries update at the Implementation WG. The Spring Chinook releases will happen in late March/Early April. 117K in Mill Creek, 117K in mouth of the Walla Walla, 100K released in the South Fork Hatchery. We have a surplus of fish this year – normally we release 100k – get to release a few more fish, so we're hopeful.
 - 45 steelhead return to Nursery Bridge this year. All fish have been wild fish to date. Hopefully we get a lot more fish – hopefully we see fish in March.
 - Cindy: What side fish ladder are they using in Nursery Bridge?
 - East side ladder is what they tend to use at Nursery Bridge.
- Cindy shared that they are seeking additional funding for construction of the Bennington Fish Ladder. Hoping that we can go to construction in FY2025. Starting construction for the Mill Creek low flow channel – have enough funding to do half of those weirs – start upstream and move down. Seeking funding to modify the additional lower 80 weirs.
- A BAC member shared that they heard that ACOE got the Letter of No Objection from the Flood Control District – can you explain more about what that means?
 - Cindy: CTUIR requested the Corps to modify the Nursery Dam facility. We have a process at the Corps whereby a non-federal entity can modify something that was constructed by the Corps. In spite of the Corps not owning that facility, there was federal investment in it – want to maintain federal benefits even if the design was modified. Our engineers review proposals to ensure those benefits are maintained. The Phase 2 work (modification of the drop structure sill) at Nursery Bridge was requested by CTUIR a couple of years ago. We had been at an impasse for many years because we couldn't get a letter from the owner/operators of the facility (Flood Control District) that said they don't object. We've been working the Nursery Reach GI proposal on the side. This phase 2 effort is a short-term fix, with the expectation that a Nursery Reach General Investigation would propose a long-term sustainable solution. The Letter of No Objection from the Flood Control District allows the Corps to start our review of the modifications to the Nursery Dam Facility.
- Anton asked the CTUIR language staff to provide information about how to pronounce the new Hatchery name which is in the traditional language. Will share with the facilitation team to send out to the BAC.

Future Agenda/Field Trip Requests

- Chris K. shared that in March, before the BAC meeting, we'll have a Tri-Sovereign executive meeting. The executives will also attend the BAC meeting in the afternoon. BAC members can ask questions – opportunity to go directly to folks.
 - Add that on the agenda.
- Anton noted the smolt are released in the spring, that's pretty cool. Dovetail a field trip with that – smolt release.
 - Alexandra noted that the facilitation team will follow up to see if this is possible.
 - Taylor noted that utilizing a release during dusk rather than daytime – trying that for the first time. We could certainly leave here after the BAC meeting and try to see the release, but can't guarantee.
- Frank offered tours across the street: the hydroelectric plant and the ASR well next to each other. They're across the street from here so it's not very much time required. Most people haven't seen the water treatment plant. In March, we'll repaint the insides. You could probably release 11,000 smolt at the College and make a community event of it – the BAC could attend?
 - Taylor: One of the reasons we release smolts as high up in the watershed is so that salmon return as far up the watershed as possible. Can't speak for the hatchery staff.
- Chris K. asked about touring water infrastructure outside of the Basin – Umatilla Basin has some parallels. Could do it in a half of a day – but it's a bigger commitment. Chris is willing to set it up and get some of the OWRD staff to talk through what we do. If people are interested – it's a full day.
- Amanda mentioned another option to see the Touchet floodplain restoration work that CTUIR is doing – or upper Touchet work – Levee work up there. How do folks feel about substituting a BAC meeting for a field trip, or doing a short meeting?
- Taylor suggested visiting the South Fork of the WW – understand where the headwater is – how that correlates to the water downstream – that's the coldest, cleanest water in the Basin. Understand where all that water comes from. Can't get there until latter part of summer. Reachable by vehicle.
- Amanda noted for reference, past field trips have been Hatchery, Gardena Farms, and Nursery Bridge

Upcoming Meetings

- The next BAC meeting will occur on March 27, 2024.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Closing

Melissa Downes thanked the USFS and Facilitation team for inviting the USFS to present at the BAC. Melissa expressed appreciation for the USFS attendance. Melissa shared gratitude for Commissioner Kimball and Commissioner Miller attending the BAC meeting, in support of one of the tri-sovereign goals to increase county participation. Melissa shared thanks for continuing feedback on priority discussion. Melissa expressed excitement on the progress of the Oregon legislation. Lastly, Melissa shared appreciation to those who are applying for funding opportunities.

Follow Ups:

- CTUIR sending Hatchery data
- LOS for drought planning
- Edit to priorities based on discussion
- Nick is a survey design expert
- City PR person invite to WW PFO
- Send follow up materials from USFS

Appendix A. Attendees

WWBAC Members & Alternates

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Annie	Byerley	WA Agriculture / Walla Walla Conservation District
Anton	Chiono	CTUIR
Chris	Kowitz	OWRD
Cindy	Boen	US Army Corps of Engineers
Cole	Hendrickson	ODEQ
Colleen	Fagan	NOAA NMFS
Frank	Nicholson	City of Walla Walla
Jack	Miller	Columbia County
Jeff	Dengel	WDFW
Judith	Johnson	Kooskooskie Commons
Linda	Herbert	Blue Mountain Land Trust
Melissa	Downes	Ecology
Nathan	Rea	HT Rea Farms
Nick	Velluzzi	Walla Walla Community College
Ralph	Perkins	WWBWC
Renee	Hadley	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Robert	McAndrews	City of College Place
Sarah	Dymecki	Washington Water Trust
Steven	Patten	City of Milton-Freewater
Taylor	McCroskey	ODFW
Todd	Kimball	Walla Walla County
Travis	Trumbull	WWRID
Troy	Baker	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

WWBAC Members Not in Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Alli	Newhouse	Little River Group
Brook	Beeler	Ecology
Dan	Dorran	Umatilla County
Jerimiah	Bonifer	CTUIR
Justin	Yeager	NOAA NMFS
Mark	Wachtel	WDFW
Mark	Wagoner	Gardena Farms Irrigation District



Other Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Alexandra	Doty	Cascadia Consulting Group
Alle	Brown-Law	Cascadia Consulting Group
Amanda	Cronin	AMP Insights
Bryan	Gartland	
Charlotte	Regula-Whitefield	OWRD
Chris	Beard	Ecology
Heather	May	Ecology
Ilene	Le Vee	Member of the Public
Jaime	Short	Ecology
Jamie	Clark	WA DOH
Janna	Stevens	
Jennie	Weathered	Ecology
John	Fazio	
Johnny	Collin	US Forest Service
Jon	Campbell	
Joseph	Sciarrino	US Forest Service
Ross	Deardorff	OWRD
Scott	Tarbutton	Ecology
Stephanie	May	Ecology
Stuart	Crane	Yakama Nation
Tessa	Willburn	OWRD
Tim	Poppleton	Ecology
Tom	Tebb	Ecology
Unknown Call-in User 1		
Zig	Napkora	US Forest Service