

# WALLA WALLA BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

South Fork Walla Walla Fish Hatchery  
79772 S. Fork Walla Walla River Road  
Milton Freewater, OR

**Hybrid Meeting** (Virtual Option via WebEx)

*If you are attending in person, lunch will be served at the hatchery at 12:30. The meeting will start at 1:00 for those joining virtually.*

Time*	Agenda Item (Action items are marked with "!")	Reference Materials	Presenter(s)
<b>1:00</b> (15 mins)	<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> (30 mins)	<b>Tri-Sovereign Executive Team Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates and perspectives from Tri-Sovereign Executive Members</li> <li>BAC Member Questions/Discussion</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Tebb, WA</li> <li>Doug Woodcock, Oregon</li> <li>Chris Marks, CTUIR</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>1:45*</b> (30 mins)	<b>Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BOR Basin Study</li> <li>WA Legislation</li> <li>Project and funding updates from BAC members</li> <li>Working Group Updates</li> <li>Upcoming Meeting Dates</li> <li>Future agenda or field trip requests from BAC members (BAC or Working Group meetings)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitation Team</li> <li>BAC Members</li> </ul>
<b>2:15*</b> (35 mins)	<b>Bi-State Flow Study</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Scope of Work</li> <li>Next steps for Bi-State Flow Working Group</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ron Fehringer, Jacobs</li> <li>Dan Haller, Aspect</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>2:50*</b> (5 mins)	<b>Public Comment</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>2:55*</b> (5 mins)	<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>Chris Kowitz, on behalf of Tri-Sovereigns</li> </ul>
<b>3:00*</b>	<b>Field Trip: South Fork Walla Walla River Fish Hatchery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tour of hatchery operations</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gary James, CTUIR</li> </ul>
<b>4:00*</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>



## Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda

Chris Marks, CTUIR, welcomed attendees to the September Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, commenting that it was great to be together at the South Fork Hatchery. He thanked attendees for coming up to the Hatchery.

Susan Gulick, facilitator, reviewed the agenda and led roll call. Attendees are listed in [Appendix A. Attendees](#).

## Tri-Sovereign Executive Team Updates

### Tom Tebb, Ecology:

Tom welcomed everyone and thanked his executive colleagues for all they are contributing to this effort—both financially and politically. WA is committed to funding up to 50% of the cost of implementing the strategic plan but we need work on how to fund the other half. We are very optimistic given the interest and support from stakeholders and partners in the basin. Getting your support has been critical. I know some of you have been at it for decades, and I want to thank you for your work. We're doing this for future generations. We've been living with a previous generation's water infrastructure and now we are working together to create a better way. It's an exciting time, and we look forward to working with you all as a group and individually.

### Doug Woodcock, OWR:

Doug thanked everyone for the invitation to the BAC meeting. I am the acting director of the Oregon Water Resources, and this is my 7<sup>th</sup> day in that role! I've been working with OWRD for over 32 years. We are working with a new strategic plan to help modernize. My role is to maintain the momentum that Tom Byler started. This is a fantastic group of people, doing important work, and I am encouraged to see the two states and the Tribes working together. I look forward to learning more.

### Chris Marks, CTUIR:

Chris filled in for Eric Quaempts who really wanted to be here but had a last-minute conflict. Chris shared remarks on Eric's behalf.

The Tribes tried to do this work locally, with the Partnership, that didn't work. We didn't give up— we transitioned. We took lessons learned from this Basin and other basins, and we recognize that we all have to be at the table. We are all part of the problem *and* the solution. There is frustration about more process on top of 20 years of process, but please be assured that we are not doing things all over again – we are building on the lessons learned. I want to thank everyone for sticking with it – if we continue to show up in these rooms, we can do great things, we will show that we can have water for fish, water for ag, water for farms and water for people.

## Discussion:

- Can you confirm that Ecology is committed to paying 50% of the cost?
  - Tom responded yes—if the Washington legislation passes. OCR tries to provide resources and out of the box thinking to try and solve some of these issues.
  - Courtney Crowell shared that she is inspired. Oregon has made progress and is starting to adopt the mentality that we need to innovate and modernize.

## Updates, Agenda Requests

### Project and Funding Updates

- Tom Tebb announced that Ecology has submitted their US Bureau of Reclamation grant application for the basin study, which intends to examine existing bi-state efforts and look for new, non-traditional ways to store



water. He mentioned their hope that a preferred alternative will come out of both the basin study and the bi-state flow study. There are great opportunities with federal funding, and we need to be ready for that.

- Renee Hadley shared a reminder about the Letter of Support for the Walla Walla Capacity for Rivers project for funding through the NOAA Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities.
- Gary James shared that CTUIR is working on two post-flood projects, including working with landowners to identify a way to enhance fish habitat and provide a cross-sectional flow channel. They have re-meandered a channel, which is starting to show results.
- Steve Martin mentioned the importance of fish passage, noting Washington's fish passage board. He thanked the CTUIR and the City of Walla Walla for their fish passage efforts, saying he'd seen more water in Mill Creek than we've had in generations, and we are seeing salmon again!
  - Frank Nicholson responded, saying that the City of Walla Walla finished ASR Well 5, and there will be more water, more fish are finding their way. He thanked Gary and the CTUIR for helping the City in the right direction.
- Susan shared that the BAC's suggestion for the tri-sovereign team to be changed to ex-officio, non-voting members has been made, and the member list has been updated.
- Susan asked for any agenda requests or future field trip requests; there were none. She encouraged people to let the consulting team know of things the BAC should discuss.

## Upcoming Meetings

- PFO Working Group: Thursday, 9/29 at 9 AM; Water and Environment Center, WWCC
  - Discussing the outreach plan, Tier 1 strategies that most need outreach to be successful, and an integrated funding strategy
  - No more meetings scheduled for the rest of 2022
- Implementation Working Group: Thursday, 10/13; Remote via WebEx
  - Discussing the list of near-term project actions
  - Tom Tebb mentioned that it is okay if the near-term list is big, they just need direction for where to spend the \$2 million in OCR's Biennium 23-25 request.
  - Amanda reminded everyone that the working group's focus is on getting a near-term actions list that would potentially be funded by OCR. The BAC would review this list in November-December.
- Bi-State Flow Study Working Group:
  - More details to come, following presentation
- BAC Meetings:
  - October: Wednesday, 10/26; Water and Environment Center, WWCC
  - November: No BAC meeting in November
  - December: Wednesday, 12/7; Water and Environment Center, WWCC

## Bi-State Flow Study Update

### Presentation by Ron Fehringer, Jacobs

- Ron gave an overview of the Bi-State Flow Study, mentioning its focus bringing more water into the Walla Walla River, both for fish and for people. We've looked at a total of 3 anchor projects.

### Bi-State Flow Study Scope

- **Task 1: Project Management**
- **Task 2: Design Criteria Refresh & Model Updates** – get new or updated diversion data, refine the WW response model, and use that to update the criteria (i.e., size of facilities, effectiveness to do flow replacement).
- **Task 3: Reservoir Concept Design Refinement** – bring the Warm Springs Reservoir concept to a comparable level of development to other Anchor project alternatives, and validate assumptions used in prior phase.
- **Task 4: Additional Anchor Project Definition Refinement** – further explore a hybrid concept, that would be some combination of the three anchor projects listed. Need stakeholder input to define this potential hybrid.



- **Task 5: Cost Estimating Update and Financial Analysis for Public/Private Investment Framework** - update the cost estimates for each anchor project alternative, factoring in inflation, supply chain issues, construction costs, lifecycle costs (i.e., maintenance).
- **Task 6: Preliminary Anchor Project Ownership and Operation** – touch on the concept of who might own and operate the anchor project and identify potential organizations’ interest through interviews.
- **Task 7: Communication and Outreach** – update outreach materials, collaborate with the outreach efforts from the PFO work group.
- **Task 8: Preliminary Columbia River Consultation** – review draft consultation outreach done during the last phase and initiate formal government-to-government consultation.
- **Task 9: Meeting Technical Support** – participate and contribute to five Bi-State Flow working group meetings.
- **Task 10: 2024 Flow Study Update Report** – update the comprehensive report, integrate with Basin Watershed Management efforts where possible.

## Discussion:

- Courtney Crowell asked how the Bi-State Flow study is similar or different from the Bureau of Reclamation basin study?
  - Tom Tebb answered that the basin study would review the flow study’s body of work plus *all* strategies from the 2050 strategic plan. It would ask if there is more we can do or something we missed.
- Gary James commented that it is great to get Bi-State Flow Study moving again. He voiced concern that the timeline doesn’t move to selection of the preferred alternative more quickly. He also had questions about secondary benefits mentioned in the scope of work. Susan responded that many of these concerns will be discussed in the first Bi-State Flow Study work group meeting.
  - Mike Ingham concurred with Gary and recommended that the first meeting of the Flow Study Work Group should set a goal to have a preferred alternative by January 2024.
- Jon Campbell asked about the concept of wind energy storage and recovery on the Warm Springs Reservoir concept.
  - Tom agreed that looking at green energy would be a plus. There should be more exploration of this idea.

## Public Comment

*No comments.*

## Field Trip of the South Fork Walla Walla River Fish Hatchery

## Appendix A. Attendees

### WWBAC Members & Alternates

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Allie	Newhouse	OR Irrigation at-large
Annie	Byerley	WA Agriculture
Bret	Walters	USACE
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
Gary	James	CTUIR
Jeff	Dengel	WDFW
John	Foltz	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Judith	Johnson	Kooskooskie Commons
Linda	Herbert	Blue Mountain Land Trust
Mark	Wagoner	Gardena Farms Irrigation District
Mike	Frederickson	Port of Walla Walla
Mike	Ingham	Gardena Farms Irrigation District
Nathan	Rea	Oregon Agriculture
Nicholas	Velluzzi	Walla Walla Community College
Randy	Jones	ODEQ
Ralph	Perkins	WWBWC
Renee	Hadley	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Sarah	Dymecki	Washington Water Trust
Steve	Martin	WDFW
Steven	Patten	City of Milton-Freewater
Taylor	McCroskey	ODFW
Todd	Kimball	Walla Walla County
Travis	Trumbull	WWRID

### WWBAC Members Not in Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Justin	Yeager	NOAA NMFS
Melissa	Downes	Ecology

### Other Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Alle	Brown-Law	Cascadia Consulting Group
Amanda	Cronin	Amp Insights
Bill	Goss	OR Health Authority
Bill	Neve	WRS



Catherine	Veninga	WA Senate
Cindy	Timmons	Valley Herald
Courtney	Crowell	Oregon Governor's Office
Dan	Haller	Aspect Consulting
David	Haire	CTUIR
Doug	Woodcock	OWRD
Eric	Hartwig	Ecology
James	Kraft	WWT
Jamie	Clark	DOH
Jan	Corn	
Janna	Stevens	ODFW
Jasmine	Loupe	OWRD
John	Chart	
Jon	Campbell	Jon Campbell Architect
Luke	Martin	OWRD
Marie	Sullivan	
Perrin	Robinson	Jacobs
Ralph	Strong	
Ron	Fehringer	Jacobs
Ross	Deardorff	OWRD
Scott	Tarbutton	Ecology
Stuart	Crane	
Susan	Gulick	Sound Resolutions
Tara	Patten	WWBWC
Tim	Poppleton	Ecology
Tom	Tebb	Ecology