



**Draft Meeting Summary**  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2020 | 1:00 – 4:00 p.m**  
**Online Only Meeting | WebEx**

**Agenda:**

<b>Time*</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b> (Action items are marked with “!”)	<b>Objective &amp; Reference Materials</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>
<b>1:00</b> (15 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>	<b>Information</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda</li> <li>Draft 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>1:15*</b> (30 mins)	<b>SPAC Operating Procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review comments received and revised draft</li> <li>SPAC discussion</li> <li>! Adopt operating procedures</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion, Action</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated SPAC operating procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> <li>SPAC Members</li> </ul>
<b>1:45*</b> (45 mins)	<b>Overview of Chapter 90.92 RCW and Recent Legislation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review legislation and tasks for this biennium.</li> <li>Status and timeline</li> <li>SPAC questions and discussion.</li> </ul>	<b>Information, Discussion</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timeline</li> <li>2SSB 5352 and Bill Report</li> <li>Legislative Report Outline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dave Christenson, Ecology</li> <li>Chris Hyland, WWWMP</li> </ul>
<b>2:30*</b>	<b>10 MINUTE BREAK</b>		
<b>2:40*</b> (50 mins)	<b>Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review comments and revised outline.</li> <li>SPAC members key issues</li> <li>SPAC discussion</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion</b> <i>Reference materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised strategic plan outline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angela Pietschmann, Cascadia Consulting</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>4:00*</b> (10 mins)	<b>Working Group Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from the Data, Studies and Monitoring (DSM) Working Group</li> <li>SPAC questions and discussion</li> </ul>	<b>Information, Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Group Representative (TBD)</li> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>4:10*</b> (15 mins)	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>4:25*</b> (5 mins)	<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>o SPAC, Working Groups</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Gulick, Facilitator</li> </ul>

\*All reference materials are available [online](#).

**Welcome, Introductions & Review Agenda**

Tom Tebb, WA Department of Ecology, and Judith Johnson, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, welcomed attendees and thanked attendees for their participation in the strategic planning process so far.

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

Susan Gulick reviewed the meeting summary. Susan received one edit to the draft meeting summary:

- Changed Tom Tebb and Judith Johnson to *ex-officio* members of the SPAC.

**Decision:** All SPAC members approved the Meeting Summary.

## SPAC Operating Procedures

Susan provided an update on the revised [Strategic Plan Advisory Committee \(SPAC\) Operating Procedures](#). There are two minor changes to the SPAC Operating Procedures:

- Added a deadline of 5/31/2021 for the SPAC's final recommendations on the Strategic Plan.
- Clarified that WGs may select one or more leads to allow flexibility.

### Discussion:

- Ralph Perkins asked where the Tri-Sovereigns (WA Department of Ecology, Oregon Water Resources Department, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) fit into the process?
  - The Tri-Sovereigns continue to meet weekly to guide and support this effort. Additionally, members of the Tri-Sovereigns are actively participating in the SPAC and WGs so are actively providing input on the process.
  - Ultimately, the Tri-Sovereigns will need to work on the legal aspects of this endeavor to make it successful and will support the administrative WG scope.
- An attendee asked what organizations are a part of the Consulting Team (Section 3.6)?
  - Cascadia Consulting Group (Gretchen Muller, Angela Pietschmann, Caroline Burney) is the Prime Contractor. Sound Resolutions (Susan Gulick), Northwest Land & Water (Jim Mathieu), AMP Insights (Amanda Cronin) are subcontractors.
  - **Action item:** Add a hyperlink to the consultants roster on the SPAC Operating Procedures.
- Mark Wachtel asked who are the members of the Coordinating Committee?
  - The coordinating committee is listed in Section 3.3.

**Decision:** All approved the SPAC Operating Procedures with the one change noted above (adding hyperlink to Consulting Team).

## Overview of Chapter 90.92 RCW and Recent Legislation

Dave Christensen, WA Department of Ecology, provided an overview of 90.92 RCW which created the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership Program. Ecology and the Partnership are required to submit a report to the legislature at the same time the Strategic Plan is being developed.

Per the requirements of [SB 5352](#), Ecology is completing the following tasks:

Date	Task
Fall 2019	WWW 2050 Process initiated
February 2020	Report to the Legislature initiated
May 2020	Performance and financial audit completed
November 1, 2020	Submit report to the legislature with recommendations for future of strategic planning in Walla Walla Basin
November 30-December 2, 2020	Legislative Assembly Days (likely to be requested to present report findings)
January 11, 2021	2021 Legislative session begins
June 30, 2021	Strategic Plan due
June 30, 2021	Expiration of pilot project authorized in chapter 90.92 RCW (unless extended by legislature)
<b>Other Requirements in the legislation, to be completed by 6/30/2021</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWWMP Will continue working on the Walla Walla Basin Flow Enhancement Study</li> <li>• WWWMP will collaborate in the development of a 30-year strategic plan and EIS and explore interstate agreements</li> <li>• WWWMP to coordinate with Ecology on any funding requests</li> </ul>

Ecology and the Partnership are working on drafting and editing the report. An outline has been developed and will be reformulated as information is gathered from the Strategic Planning process, from Ecology, and the Partnership.

Dave noted that typically, a strategic plan would be finalized and then a report to the legislature would be completed, so there may be some challenges associated with writing a legislative report in the middle of the planning process.

Chris Hyland, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, added that the report will be roughly 10-20 pages.

#### Discussion:

- Attendees asked for clarity between the two reports: the legislative report and the Strategic Plan.
  - Legislative report will be a targeted report to answer the specific legislative questions posed to Ecology and the Partnership. Many of the details from the Strategic Plan will not be available at that point.
  - The final Strategic Plan will be much more comprehensive and detailed.
- Will the WWWMP Policy Advisory Group (PAG) review the report?
  - Review by the PAG has not been built into the tight timeline - will discuss with the Board at the meeting next Tuesday.
- Will the SPAC review the legislative report before it goes to the legislature?
  - The timeline above only accounts for Partnership and Ecology review and comments. Chris Hyland and Dave Christensen will discuss how to incorporate SPAC review.
  - A SPAC member noted that it's fine if there's not time for review so long as it's clear to the legislature that the SPAC has not reviewed or shaped the report.
    - Todd Kimball added that the legislation states that it is to be written by the Partnership and Ecology
  - Chris Hyland recommended a standing agenda item to bring updates on the legislative report to get feedback from the SPAC and answer any questions.
- Chris Marks added that there seems to be opportunity for the legislative report to identify what we're looking for with regards to next steps for the 2050 plan.

## Working Group Updates

Steven Patten, provided an update on the Data, Studies, and Monitoring (DSM) WG which met on 5/12 and 5/26.

The DSM WG has several key goals:

- Build a collective understanding of current water conditions.
- Provide data and information for other WGs to discuss desired future conditions.
- Develop data-driven recommendations in the Strategic Plan.

Key Outcomes:

- Reviewed homework document developed by technical consultants.
- Assigned roles for completing homework and gathering key pieces of information.

Next Steps:

- First draft of homework to be completed by June 3.
- Next WG meeting will discuss responses to draft of homework on June 9.
- Information from DSM WG will feed into other WGs.

Discussion:

- Chris Marks asked whether the WGs have adequate participation for all the pieces of data?
  - There are 30 WG participants, with expertise from across the basin.
  - The WG is lacking participation in a few areas including rural-domestic, small scale commercial, and smaller municipalities.
    - **Action Item:** Chris Marks and Todd Kimball volunteered to reach out to these entities.
    - **Action Item:** Consulting team to distribute matrix with homework assignments.
- Melissa Downes asked how to engage participants in the other WGs who may have expertise in the data that's being gathered for the DSM WG?
  - The DSM WG is gathering the foundational, baseline data to assess current conditions. The other WGs will build off and add to the data gathered by the DSM WG.

## Strategic Plan Outline

Angela Pietschmann, Cascadia Consulting Group, provided an overview of the revised [Strategic Plan outline](#). The outline has been reorganized to reflect the planned phasing of the Working Group outputs.

Susan asked each SPAC member to share what is the single most important thing for the group to reach consensus on for the Strategic Plan? See [Slide 6](#) for each response. Common themes include:

- Basin-wide focus (full watershed and including ground water in addition to surface water)
- Bi-state and tribal cooperation

- Consensus-based
- Suite of potential water supply projects
- Agreement around the quantity of water needed to meet the demand

Susan asked SPAC members to share their desired future conditions (DFCs) and metrics associated with those DFCs. See [Slide 7](#) and 8 for responses. Common themes include:

- Flow improvements for the mainstem of the Walla Walla, Touchet, and other tributaries to benefit fish, farms, and people.
- Conjunctive management.
- Bi-state and tribal agreement.
- Stabilized groundwater levels.

Discussion:

- The SPAC identified that more information is needed on water demand and desired future flows.
  - The Consulting Team and Coordinating Committee will work with WG members to discuss these issues further.
- Chris Marks added that consistent management between local, federal, and tribal managers will be important for ongoing, sustainable management of the resource.
- Tom Tebb added that specific performance measures are needed for all of the areas we're interested in, including water supply, improved fish passage, communities' drinking water, and irrigation.

SPAC members shared their ideas for future SPAC meetings and how to advance this discussion:

- Judith Johnson recommended several presentations, including:
  - Flooding and recovery, including why and where the floods occurred.
  - Monitoring and management processes including issues like how do we measure, how do we know who's using how much water, where, and when?
    - Tom added that Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program in collaboration with USGS may have information to add here.
    - Chris Kowitz added that this could be helpful to understand the current goalposts.
- Chris Marks recommended a hatchery presentation.
- Steven Patten recommended a discussion around existing current conditions, including an overview of existing water uses and more detail on the anchor projects from the flow study.
- Brian Wolcott recommended discussing what should be included in a bi state agreement.
- Alison Newhouse requested more information on the 'Spring Branches' area.
- SPAC members recommended posing these questions before the meeting so that the meeting time can be used to discuss common ground, explore solutions, and build consensus.

## Public Comment

- One attendee noted that the scope and scale of the plan should be basin-wide. In addition to WW River flow for fish and farms, it should also look at Little WW River, Mill Ck, Touchet River, and also look at water quality and floodplain management.
- Scott Tarbutton, WA Department of Ecology, expressed his hope that we can gather all of the most current, accurate data on water use and metering in the Basin so that we can establish the baseline.
- Public comments may be [submitted online](#). Anyone may submit comments at this link throughout this process.

## Updates and announcements:

- Upcoming meetings:
  - SPAC: June 24 from 1-3 pm via WebEx.
  - WGs:
    - Data, Studies, and Monitoring: June 9 from 1-3 pm via WebEx.
    - Water Supply Needs: June 18 from 1 – 3 pm via WebEx.
    - Ecological Function: June 17 from 1 – 3 pm via WebEx.

## Appendix A. Attendance

### SPAC Members in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Adams, Susan	WWT
Bambrick, Dale	NMFS, NOAA
Boen, Cindy	USACE
Byerley, Annie	WA Irrigation at-large
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, Alli	OR Irrigation at-large
Patten, Steven	City of Milton-Freewater
Perkins, Ralph	WWBWC
Talbott, Mike	Columbia County
Tebb, Tom	Ecology, <i>Ex-Officio</i>
Wachtel, Mark	WDFW

### SPAC Members Not in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Shafer, John	Umatilla County
Wagoner, Mark	Gardena Farms Irrigation District

### Other Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Beard, Chris	Ecology
Beeler, Brook	Ecology
Birdsall, Doug	WWWMP
Buelow, Kris	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Burney, Caroline	Cascadia Consulting
Cabbage, Patrick	Ecology
Culp, Jon	WA Conservation Commission
Dengel, Jeff	WDFW
Downes, Melissa	Ecology
Dymecki, Sarah	WWT
Fagan, Colleen	NMFS, NOAA
Gulick, Susan	Sound Resolutions
Hadley, Renee	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Haller, Dan	Aspect Consulting
Hyland, Chris	WWWMP
Pietschmann, Angela	Cascadia Consulting
Poppleton, Tim	Ecology
Reynecke, Brandy	Ecology
Short, Jaime	Ecology
Tarbutton, Scott	Ecology
Wolcott, Brian	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council