

Walla Walla Water 2050: Meeting Summary
Day 1: Thursday, October 3, 2019
10:00 am-5:00 pm

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item	Presenters	Handouts
10:00 (30 mins)	Welcome & Introductions, Agenda Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal welcome Welcome by Dept of Ecology, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership (WWWMP) and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Introductions Review agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eric Quaempts, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Mary Verner, Dept of Ecology Judith Johnson, WWWMP Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda Summary of Process
10:30 (50 mins/10 mins each)	Background Information: Why are we here? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington perspective Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership (WWWMP) perspective Tribal perspective Federal perspective Oregon perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Tebb, Dept of Ecology Judith Johnson, WWWMP Eric Quaempts, CTUIR Diane Driscoll, NMFS Tom Byler, Oregon Water Resources Dept 	
11:20 (20 mins)	Overview of the Watershed: Unique Features, Unique Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Hyland, WWWMP Scott Tarbutton, Dept of Ecology Brian Wolcott, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council; Oregon Chris Marks, CTUIR 	
11:40 (10 mins)	Overview of Legislative Requirements and Strategic Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melissa Downes, Dept of Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCW 90.92
11:50 (10 mins)	Question/Answers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	
12:00 (5 mins)	Small Group Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Group Instructions
12:05	LUNCH BREAK		
1:00 (60-75 mins)	Small Group #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion (30 min) Report out (30 min) Summary/Common Themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Groups Reporter selected by small group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Group Instructions
2:15 (75-90 mins)	Small Group #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion (30 min) Report out (30 min) Summary/Common Themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Groups Reporter selected by small group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Group Instructions
3:45	15 MINUTE BREAK		
4:00 (45 mins)	Discussion of Common Themes in Visions	<i>Facilitated Discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	
4:45 (15 mins)	Wrap-up and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrap-up of Day 1 Preview of Day 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaime Short, Dept of Ecology Judith Johnson, WWWMP 	

Welcome & Introductions, Agenda Review

Eric Quaempts, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), convened the workshop and welcomed attendees. Susan Gulick, Facilitator, reviewed logistics, ground rules, and oriented attendees to the meeting packet.

Mary Verner, WA Department of Ecology, and Judith Johnson, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, thanked attendees for joining in the collaborative effort to improve the quality and availability of water in the Walla Walla Basin. Many partners are involved in addressing the Basin's water management needs including WA Department of Ecology, Walla Walla Watershed Management Program, Tribal Governments, the State of Oregon, Federal agencies, environmental organizations.

Background Information

Panelists discuss the background and history of water management in the Walla Walla Basin. Please see the presentations [HERE](#) for more details.

- Tom Tebb, WA Department of Ecology, discussed the Office of Columbia River's role in developing water supply for in stream and out of stream resources and the importance of developing a long-term strategy that accounts for the diverse needs.
- Judith Johnson, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, provided a history of water management in the Basin and efforts to improve stream flows.
- Eric Quaempts, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, discussed the Tribe's work to improve stream flows, restore habitat, and improve water quality for fish.
- Colleen Fagan, National Marine Fisheries Service, discussed the impact of low stream flows on Walla Walla and Touchet steelhead.
- Tom Byler, Oregon Water Resources Department, discussed bi-state collaboration, as well as Oregon's work to collect basin-wide data on groundwater and surface water.

All presenters shared their commitment to building a long-term water resource strategy. They expressed their commitment to building on the long history of collaboration to solve water issues in the Basin while ensuring that the strategy has community support, funding, and a legislative framework.

Overview of the Watershed: Unique Features, Unique Challenges

Panelists provided an overview of the watershed and the unique features and challenges of the Walla Walla Basin. Please see the presentations [HERE](#) for more details.

- Scott Tarbutton, WA Department of Ecology, provided a baseline of understanding of the basin.
- Chris Marks, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, discussed the key environmental issues facing the basin including instream flow, floodplain habitat, and fish.
- Chris Hyland, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, discussed the Partnership's role to manage water in the Basin.
- Brian Wolcott, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, discussed issues with water management in Oregon and efforts to improve stream flows.

Key challenges facing water management in the Basin, include:

- Water has been over-appropriated
- In-stream and out of stream flows have been significantly reduced
- Water quality and temperature are impaired

- Fish populations are impaired, especially Walla Walla Steelhead and Touchet Steelhead due to low stream flow, fish passage barriers, and water temperature
- Degraded floodplain connectivity and poor habitat
- Different management approaches by Washington and Oregon
- Climate change and population growth

Overview of the Legislative Requirements and Strategic Planning Process

Melissa Downes, WA Department of Ecology, provided an overview of the legislative requirements and the strategic planning process. See [WA RCW 90.92](#) for more information.

WA RCW 90.92 is the pilot local water management program. The Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership has been actively working on local plans in the Basin. During the last legislative session, the pilot program was extended until June 2021.

As a part of the extension, five new tasks were added. See [Section 90.92.050](#) for more details.

- 1. Performance and financial audits (kicked off May 2019)
- 2. Clear direction to continue working on Bi-State study
- 3. Developing 30-year integrated water resource management plan
 - The workshop kicked off this effort
- 4. Report to WA State Legislature- due in November 2020.
- 5. OCR received capital funds to move tasks forward.

Question/Comments

- How will the Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) ongoing study regarding Mill Creek interface with these efforts?
 - All the parties will be encouraged to be involved in the strategic planning process. In addition, the Flow Study Steering Committee is communicating with USACE to explore opportunities to coordinate with the Mill Creek study. There is an opportunity to discuss options that may meet the USACE directive and the Flow Study objective to increase instream flow in the mainstem Walla Walla River. Several attendees commented that federal land owners in the basin need to be involved.
- Has there been a bi-state water compact to address water management issues?
 - There is not a formal compact but the governments of Washington, Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation are committed to working collaboratively to address water management issues.
- Why are groundwater levels declining?
 - Combination of factors:
 - Consumption of water for domestic and municipal use
 - Channelization of streams mean water is rushing out to Columbia instead of soaking into water table
 - Declining snow pack in winters

Small Group #1

Attendees formed small interest groups to discuss their vision for the watershed by 2050:

- Rural Vitality
 - Vitality in the Walla Walla Basin in 2050 will be achieved if declining groundwater is more sustainable, WA/OR water laws are compatible, and development is consistent with available water supply.
- Environmental
 - By 2050, the environmental quality of the Walla Walla watershed provides for the needs of all species, including humans, in sustainable ways in the face of climate change and population growth.
- Fisheries

- More flows in a natural system achieving abundant fisheries and recovering populations while meeting instream and out of stream flows.
- Achieve multiple sustained water uses and needs into the future through water and floodplain management.
- Achieve ecologically functioning watershed which supports sustainable, healthy, and harvestable fisheries.
- Recreation & Tourism
 - Balance competing water interests from holistic, sustainable water resources to understand those resources and plan for the future.
- Dryland Agriculture
 - Continued evolution of crop production system that protects water quality.
 - Protect agriculture community from conversion to residential development.
- Irrigated agriculture
 - Holistic watershed management with a viable economy- with lots of fish.
- Urban Vitality
 - Urban vitality requires long range integrated strategy that promotes human health and safety, economic development, environmental sustainability and based on a foundation of collaboration.
 - A community that embraces our rivers and streams and integrates them into our lives to ensure sufficient water for purposeful grow, healthy ecosystems, and multipurpose farm management.
- Other
 - Working together for the Walla Walla Basin for cold, clear, clean water to support present and future needs both instream and out of stream, recognizing constraints, to effectively steward and share water resources from the headwaters to the mouth.
 - A community implementing holistic watershed management practices creating a healthy environment enabling numerous ecosystem services empowering a vibrant and robust economy.

There were several key themes across the diverse interest groups, including:

- Focus on ecological quality of water
- Concern for future generations
- Importance of recognizing the interests of others and the broad needs for water in the basin
- Emphasis on collaboration and cooperation

Key differences across the interest groups include:

- Urban vitality was the only interest group to acknowledge human health and safety
- Impact of invasive weeds on agriculture, wildlife, and water
- Need to capture issues of riparian restoration and wetland habitat

Small Group #2

Small groups discussed barriers to realizing the visions outlined in Small Group #1 as well as solutions to overcome those barriers.

Barriers:

- Overalllocation of water
- Lack of funding:
 - Lack of funding for water infrastructure projects
 - Lack of funding to manage systems
 - Lack of funding for staff
- Competing interests for water

- Lack of knowledge:
 - Lack of knowledge of water systems by general public
 - Lack of knowledge of age of groundwater
 - Lack of knowledge of benefits of a healthy watershed by general public
- Engaging stakeholders:
 - Maintaining participation
 - Ensuring all voices are heard
- Political Constraints
 - Bi-state coordination
 - Westside vs eastside dynamic
 - Government agencies are not wired for innovation
 - Battling political fatigue
- Uncertainties
 - Climate change
 - Population growth
 - Economic
- Complex hydrology of Basin
- Long-term planning not impeding what's currently going on

Solutions:

- Bi-state and tribal collaboration
- Address over-allocation of water by:
 - Reducing demand for water
 - Addressing water supply (reservoirs, exchanges, efficient irrigation systems)
 - Adequately value water
- Build a foundation of trust amongst stakeholders and celebrate the progress already made
- Be proactive, adaptive, and innovative
- Ongoing education for agencies around what's needed by tribes, irrigators, and others
- Potential need for new adjudication because current one does not include groundwater

Reflections:

Susan Gulick invited attendees to share reflections from Day 1.

- Importance of incorporating ongoing plans, including the USGS basin study.
- Importance of adaptive management
- Recognition of salmon as an indicator species
- How to move forward with planning when some data is still being collected?
- Will there be an inventory of ongoing work?
 - WA Department of Ecology is developing a situation map to map all projects and resources.
- Consider timing so working people, farmers, and other stakeholders can attend and have their voices heard.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Jaime Short, Department of Ecology, summarized the key takeaways from Day 1 and expressed gratitude for the collaboration and cooperation from attendees.

Walla Walla Water 2050: Meeting Summary
Day 2: Friday, October 4, 2019
9:00 am-3:00 pm

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item	Presenters	Handouts
9:00 (15 mins)	Welcome & Introductions, Agenda Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Introductions Review agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judith Johnson, WWWMP Brook Beeler, Dept of Ecology Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda
9:15 (15 mins)	Review of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review various vision statements Note common themes Introduce strategic plan components 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melissa Downes & Dave Christensen, Dept of Ecology 	
9:30 (5 mins)	Introduce Fishbowl Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of Fishbowl Process Fishbowl Instructions
9:35 (45 mins)	Fishbowl # 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the visions that were developed yesterday, what key components would you like to see addressed in the strategic plan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	
10:20	10 MINUTE BREAK		
10:30 (75 mins)	Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (YBIP) Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation(s) – History, Vision, Goals, Commitment, Success Question/Answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation Tom Tebb, Dept of Ecology Paul Ward, Yakama Nation Scott Revell, Roza Irrigation District Peter Dykstra, Plauche & Carr Jason McShane, Kennewick Irrigation District Ron Anderson, Yakima County Commissioner Jerome Delvin, Benton County Commissioner Wendy McDermott, American Rivers Benjamin Floyd, Facilitator 	
11:45	LUNCH BREAK		
12:30 (45 mins)	Fishbowl #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the components of an ideal process that would inspire you to work to address others' interests. Try to phrase your comments into comments about what you would like to see and limit statements about what you don't want. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	
1:15 (45 mins)	Fishbowl #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does success look like? What specific, measurable water resource outcomes would you like to see by 2050 in order to call the strategic planning process a success? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Gulick, Facilitator 	

<p>2:00 (30 mins)</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review legislative expectations and timeframes. • Review the process and expectations for creating an Executive Committee for WWW 2050. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Time commitments ○ Update and seek input from the interest you represent • Explain how to be considered for Executive Committee • Questions/Answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecology Team</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Requirement Timeline
<p>2:30 (30 mins)</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local and state officials</i> • <i>Eric Quaempts, CTUIR</i> • <i>Tom Tebb, Dept. of Ecology</i> 	

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Judith Johnson, WWWMP, convened Day 2. Brooke Beeler, WA Department of Ecology, thanked everyone for their participation and reminded attendees that this is the beginning of a long process and there will be many opportunities to engage.

Susan Gulick, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda, logistics, and comment cards.

Review of Day 1

Melissa Downes and Dave Christensen, WA Department of Ecology provided a recap of Day 1, including common themes for the 2050 vision:

- Meeting growing demands and protecting ecological function
- Balancing competing water interests in this basin
- Holistic watershed and water resource management
- Achieving multiple sustained water uses, now and in the future
- Meeting instream and out-of-stream needs
- Planning for the future:
 - Increased instream flows
 - Robust economy
 - Sustained groundwater use
 - Climate change
 - Population growth
- Stewarding the resource from the headwaters to the mouth, from the top of the mountains to the basalt
- Healthy ecosystem
- Vibrant community
- Collaboration

Dave Christensen provided an overview of the strategic plan development process ([HERE](#)). There are several basic elements of a strategic plan:

- Vision/Mission
- Values
- Goals and objectives

- Strategy
 - Map long-term vision to objectives and identify actionable steps
 - Identify challenges and how we intend to address them
- Clearly defined outcomes for accountability
 - SMART= specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound
 - Identify measurements: what, when, who, how

Dave Christensen acknowledged the importance of incorporating work that's ongoing, identifying gaps, and avoiding impeding existing efforts.

The steps for the strategic plan development are as follows:

- Vision/Mission- discussed yesterday
- Values- yesterday and today
- Goals and objectives – yesterday and today
- Strategy- yesterday, today, and over the next two years
- Clearly defined outcomes for accountability- over the next two years

Question:

- Has there ever been a strategic plan completed on a scale like this before?
 - Historically, it's been states doing their own planning. Moving forward with the strategic plan, it's necessary to define gaps by conducting an inventory of ongoing plans and efforts. By defining those gaps, can ensure the strategic plan is focused and effective.

Fishbowl #1: What should be included in the strategic plan?

Susan Gulick facilitated a fish bowl to understand what key elements should be included in the strategic plan. Attendees shared key recommendations for the process, strategies, and communications.

- Process
 - Engage all stakeholders
 - Lead coordinating group to lead monitoring, communications, implementation, and funding
 - Conduct inventory of ongoing processes that impact water management
 - Update bylaws
- Strategies
 - Augment instream flows holistically with the biggest bang for the buck
 - Increase availability for all uses during low flow period through all available tools including re-connecting floodplains and wetland restoration
 - Effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management
 - Address demand of water
 - Efficiency projects
 - Water conservation education for adults and schools
 - Upland forest management to retain water longer, later in the year
 - Identify critical or priority areas for projects
 - Explore multi-benefits of fisheries and salmon recovery projects

- Address channelization to slow down velocity of water
- Restoration of creeks to increase amount of cold water
- Communications
 - Internal and external communications plan to convey planning process to broader community
 - Demonstrate progress towards key water management gaps
 - Demonstrate progress of protection of instream flows- bistate process
 - Demonstrate progress of protection of instream flows and communicate to public to maintain momentum and participation

Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (YBIP) Panel

Melissa Downes, WA Department of Ecology introduced panelists to discuss the Yakima River Basin Integrated Plan. Refer to the presentation [HERE](#) for more information.

The Integrated Plan offers a 30-year vision for responding to drought and changing climate, assuring water is clean and ample, and lands are both protected and productive for growing communities and the natural environment.

Years of litigation and successive droughts brought irrigation districts, environmental organizations, the Yakama Nation, and federal, state, county, and city governments to the table to form the Yakima River Basin work group to develop the integrated plan. Panelists noted the importance of building strong partnerships to ensure a stable, long-term water supply.

The goals of the Integrated Plan are to:

- Restore and enhance environment, fish and wildlife, including fish passage at federal dams
- Improve water supply during drought years
- Provide for efficient and adaptable water supply management
- Contribute to sustainable economy and environment

The plan addresses seven elements:

- Fish passage
- Fish habitat enhancement
- Modifying existing irrigation structures and operations
- Surface storage
- Water market-based reallocation (water banks)
- Groundwater storage
- Enhanced water conservation

Fishbowl #2: Describe the components of an ideal process that encourages participation from all key stakeholders. What would inspire you to work to address others' interests in addition to your own?

Susan Gulick facilitated a fish bowl to understand how to effectively to engage key stakeholders:

- Shared commons goals and shared sacrifices
 - Willingness to meet others' needs through collaboration
- Process for building trust

- Need to see progress
- Consider different geographic scales (Columbia, Walla Walla, Smaller Streams) and meet people at the scale they're interested
- Consider different ways to engage people
- Discuss issues on the ground to avoid meeting fatigue
- Communications and outreach to engage broader community
- Collaboration, not litigation

Fishbowl #3: What does success look like? What specific, measurable water resource outcomes would you like to see by 2050 in order to call the strategic planning process a success

Susan Gulick facilitated a fish bowl to understand desired outcomes from the strategic planning process:

- Overall
 - Improved stream flows
 - Temperature and turbidity of water
- Fisheries
 - System to support healthy and abundant fisheries for citizens of WA and Tribal Co-Managers
 - Species recovery
 - Steelhead
 - Viability of Walla Walla and Touchet populations
 - Spring Chinook
 - Bull Trout
 - Sufficient water quality and quantity to address all life fish-history needs
- Agriculture
 - Sustainable agricultural community- families farming into the future (certainty and reliability in the resource)
 - Sustained production of food sources
 - Sufficient water supply to implement agricultural plans
 - Educational programming
- Habitat & Land Use
 - Acres purchased along the river to add meander
 - Floodplain connectivity
 - Reduced flood risk
 - By 2030, Mill Creek in semi-natural conveyance through downtown
- Community
 - Reliable and sustainable water source for growth into the future
 - Average household water consumption
 - Improved city water systems to address leaky pipes
 - Community understanding of water needs in the basin
 - Continued outdoor recreation

Next Steps

Melissa Downes, WA Department of Ecology provided a recap of the legislative expectations and the timeframe. Please see **Draft Timeline** [HERE](#) for a full detailed schedule until June 2021.

The Office of Columbia River is building a website, listserv, and other communications materials to provide updates on key tasks including the performance and financial audit, flow enhancement study, 30-year Integrated Strategic Plan, and Joint Legislative Report.

The Department of Ecology is looking to form a working group and Executive Committee to represent the diverse interests in the Walla Walla Basin including agriculture, fisheries, tribal, environmental, urban, and rural interests. Working groups will meet on a regular basis (2 times per month). **To get involved with the working group, please email walla2050@listserv.ecology.wa.gov.** There will be ongoing opportunities to stay engaged beyond the working group.

Questions:

- What is the timeline for the inventory of all existing reports?
 - The inventory of existing studies and data will begin in early November. There will be ongoing efforts to update the inventory with data gathered by stakeholders.
 - The timeline will be updated to show that the inventory is an ongoing process.
- Will there be media to share what was covered at the workshop?
 - Ecology distributed press releases in advance of the workshop and plan to do so moving forward.

Closing Remarks

Todd Kimball, Walla Walla County Commissioner, Nabil Shawa, Walla Walla City Manager, Eric Quaempts, CTUIR, and Tom Tebb, WA Department of Ecology reminded attendees of the importance of collaboration and encouraged everyone to stay engaged.