

Little Walla Walla Integrated Strategies: Level I Review Questions

Who will be the Technical lead with relevant training/experience in monitoring plan design or the usage of proposed equipment in overseeing the monitoring?

We have a technical advisory team who have been consulted regarding the proposal for the test release.

- *Stacia Peterson, USFS hydrologist will be the primary resource.*
- *We have also consulted with Bob Bower of the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.*
- *We have also spoken extensively with staff for the Walla Walla River Irrigation District and Hudson Bay Improvement Company for timing and monitoring strategies.*
- *Dave Karl is a member of the Technical Advisory Team and we have also consulted with ODFW and Oregon Water Resources Board.*
- *Brian Mahoney represents CTUIR on the TAT and the Tribes have approved the Test Release.*

All referenced above will be involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Test Release.

How does the funding provided by the Watershed Alliance affect the need/size of this project? If this work is a continuation of the CIDMP framework, why is funding not sought under that umbrella?

- *This project will complete tasks which are outside the objectives of the CIDMP Phase I Steps 1-4 which have been partially funded by the Watershed Alliance, through February 21, 2008. At this time additional Alliance CIDMP funding has not been approved, and is listed as pending in the Partnerships Cost Share Table.*
- *The character of the CIDMP generated inventory/system information is that it has been generally descriptive. The character of the information to be generated by this Phase IV proposal is that it is information that can only be gleaned from an action, i.e. prompting and monitoring flow down parts of the LWWR System. These character differences support a synergistic relationship between the information to be gleaned from these two differently funded proposed efforts.*

The LWWR system condition is generating increased community interest and engagement, as can be attested to by the attendance of community members at the past 4 Watershed Council Board meetings. Council staff and meeting participants have attempted to convey the complexity of the system, and that there don't appear to be any easy solutions. Increasing the level of understanding is of paramount importance. This can help move the issues around this area from being "intractable," to gaining some traction on forward movement.

What is being accomplished under task 1? General outreach, or is a specific BMP program being developed/designed/implemented?

Specific BMP's are associated with recommendations in the TMDL for dissolved oxygen as well as the Walla Walla Sub Basin Plan and Snake River Recovery Plan (as listed in the application)

*Install, enhance and protect Riparian buffers
Adjust seasonal timing of livestock grazing within riparian areas
Improve the extent, structure & function of riparian buffers through selected livestock fencing.
Stabilize streambanks using accepted bioengineering techniques
Restore historic channel meander, create pool and riffles*

Landowners will be supported in evaluating these BMPs for their situation and developing implementation plans

- *Landowners associated with the West Little Walla Walla River Working Group have suggested possible BMP projects for the area. Some are already involved in installing riparian buffers and controlling reed canary grass and replacing culverts and would like to extend their work.*
- *Others graze animals and are considering next steps to improve their streams and streamside habitat.*
- *Outreach will be extended to agricultural and exempt well users to explore possible conservation strategies*

The application contains a number of references to work that funded under other funds: easurement of streams gains/losses (Ecology); identification of SAR sites (Ecology), coordination of WA & OR water users (Alliance); opportunities for water exchange/banking (Ecology/Washington Water Trust), development of SRF projects (WWCCD); please clarify how this is distinct, separate, and beneficial to each ongoing process.

- *Historic measurements of flows in the West Little Walla Walla River, Walsh and McEvoy Creeks are poorly characterized by past and current Ecology gauges. This proposal will increase the sites skills available to create an accurate system of measurement.*
- *Off stream SAR sites are being investigated in Oregon through the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council. The data from one or more test releases would provide information for in stream areas that could possible be used for SAR.*
- *The Alliance funding for coordination of WA and & OR water users is at a more descriptive level than the direct work on the West and potentially the East Little Walla Walla Rivers being explored in this proposal.*
- *This proposal provides opportunities for conversations with water rights holders on the West Little Walla Walla and Walsh Creeks to consider Water Trust agreements as associated with BMP implementation projects*
- *SRF Board funded HRD to conduct an assessment of passage barriers on McEvoy and the West Little Walla Walla River in 2006. That information has been examined and will be considered in projects proposed for funding through SRF Board later this year.*
- *Mike Denny, a staff member of WWCCD is on the Technical Advisory Team and so will be involved in making sure that there is no conflict or duplication with WWCCD projects.*

Please elaborate on the need for equipment purchase, type of equipment to be purchased, and reasoning for this being a separate request from the established funding occurring with the WWBWC?

- *The equipment listed in this project proposal is for flumes and associated gauges that measure PSI. Each set of gauges is estimated to cost about \$1000. This equipment can be installed and measurements recorded by landowners who will be trained to take measurements. Oversight will be provided by Stacia Peterson and other members of the TAT team.*
- *Results of the landowner performed monitoring will include water quality and habitat factors from additional locations that will supplement the WWBWC monitoring data.*

Please describe the intent, need, and scope (\$) of the video. \$5,000 that includes \$2000 to WWCC media department for assistance in equipment and final editing and production.

- *Members of the West Little Walla Walla Working Group have prioritized “telling their story” as a strategy. The video is designed to tell their story within the context of the issues and work in the Walla Walla Basin. As water levels are dropping throughout the West and East Little Walla Walla Rivers and associated spring creeks, there is increased interest in describing possible causes and solutions. A video is an effective way of describing the issues and work...as has been demonstrated by the videos produced for the St. Louis Conference and the In the Water video that has been shown in many venues including the screens at the Water and Environment Center.*

The Basin is fortunate to have experienced media producers at Walla Walla Community College, a public access TV channel that is always seeking pertinent material to screen, and student interns that are keen to help in telling stories.

Please identify the current status of seeking agreements (OR&WA) amongst the necessary entities to allow Task #3 to occur.

- *OWRD has indicated (March 2008) at this time they “would require some water use authorization;” either a limited license or a new water use permit. Developing and submitting an application for a late 2008-early 2009 release is anticipated. WWRID and Hudson Bay indicate that if fish take and property liability issues are adequately addressed, they are amenable to releases.*