

WALLA WALLA COUNTY WATERSHED PLANNING

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TO: WRIA 32 – Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit

FROM: Matt Rajnus, Project Management Specialist

DATE: April 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Columbia River Water Management Plan Update

Three pre-applications were submitted to the Columbia River Water Management Grant Program in November of 2007. None of the applications continued via submission of a final application by April 1, 2008. The three pre-applications submitted from the Walla Walla area were: Little Walla Walla Rivers System Flow Feasibility Study, Walla Walla Groundwater Replenishment and Instream Flow Enhancement Program, and Walla Walla Rural Water Supply Program.

The following summarizes the reasons the proposals did not move forward:

- Pre-applications were identified by Ecology as requiring future discussion, whereas the majority of projects were moved directly into the application phase.
- Ecology is currently working to address the legal issue of protecting flow in-state and between States with information available prior to the next grant round.

However, beginning in mid-April an opportunity to participate in a process to receive funding from the Grant program in a stream-lined manner with funds available in August of 2008 (instead of July 2009) emerged. Planning Staff are currently developing a scope of work for Ecology consideration under this stream-lined process. This process is a follow-up to the Rural Water Supply application only. In mid-May Staff will submit the scope of work and Ecology Staff will consider it for allocation of funds alongside the formal applications. The Scope will focus on the water exchange (water bank).

The formal Ecology grant process will start again this coming fall and resubmission of old pre-applications as well as new pre-applications will be considered at that time.

If you have any questions concerning this process they can be presented at the Planning Unit meeting or by contacting me directly at matt.rajnus@wwcc.edu or (509)524-5217.