

# *Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership*

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## **Policy Advisory Group Follow-up: May 17, 2010**

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The Policy Advisory Group (PAG) at their May 17, 2010 meeting continued the process to develop recommendations for the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership Board's strategic plan. Consensus recommendations were reached for suggested revisions to the working vision statement, as well as approval of working goals and objectives and principles for focusing Partnership efforts. These recommendations will come to before the Partnership Board for consideration and action at their June 1, 2010 regular meeting.

Launching the next steps of the process, the PAG also reviewed measures of success and proposed draft strategic actions at this meeting. To collect additional comments and feedback on the materials presented, the PAG requested that post-meeting review occur of measures of success and draft strategic actions. It was agreed that the Water Resource Panel would also have the opportunity to weigh-in on these elements prior to the next PAG meeting. So PAG members are asked to review the attached information and provide comments by June 7, 2010 to Partnership staff by emailing [cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu](mailto:cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu).

### Metrics of Partnership Success

The discussion on metrics of success began at the May 17, 2010 PAG meeting (see the May 17, 2010 PAG draft meeting notes at <http://www.wallawallawatershed.org/files/partnership-files/pag-files/597-minutes>). The group agreed that staff should send out the updated metrics of success for PAG review and comment, as a means of efficiently collecting input by compiling comments to be shared prior to the next PAG meeting. Staff agreed, and noted that the Water Resource Panel and Partnership Board could also be asked to comment on the metrics of success, along with the draft strategic actions, prior to the next PAG meeting.

**By Friday, June 7th, please review and comment on the metrics of success listed in draft form below.**

1. Measure the number of water banking transactions completed by 2012 (when first report to legislature is due) and by 2019, including tracking of activities in stream reaches, participant protection from relinquishment, efforts to promote conservation, and quantity of water reallocated through the exempt well mitigation exchange and/or water banking program.
2. Measure the number of local water plans approved and implemented by 2012 and by 2019, including tracking flows, groundwater impacts reported, and impairment issues.
3. Measure the percentage completion of Watershed Plan actions by 2012 and by 2019. These include actions to improve water quality (achieve TMDL goals), increase SAR and ASR, monitoring, improve flows, and other water management activities.
4. Measure the percentage completion in organizing WRIA 32 water right information to facilitate program implementation and public access.
5. Maintain regular and active participation of Partnership Board members, PAG members and WRP members.
6. Secure funding for 2011-2019 Partnership operations.
7. Achieve sufficient success in piloting local water management authorities to continue local water management board legislative authority after 2019.

To help you think about metrics of success, keep in mind some of the principles of measurement we've discussed:

- What you measure get's done – choose metrics based on established Partnership goals and objectives.
- Consider the presentation of metrics, how the Partnership can show-and-tell about our success.
- Identify a manageable number of metrics that can be understood within and outside the Partnership.
- Consider what measures mean the most to stakeholders, partners, legislators, agencies, and interest groups.
- Look at what measures of failure may be turned upside-down into measures of success.

**Please comment on your suggestions and/or revisions on the draft metrics of success, and provide your feedback to Cathy Schaeffer at [cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu](mailto:cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu) by June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## Proposed Draft Strategic Actions

PAG members began working on draft strategic actions at the May 17, 2010 PAG meeting. Partnership staff provided an orientation to the action planning work completed under the 2005 WRIA 32 Watershed Plan and 2006 Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan. Staff handed out hard copies of the 2009 Performance Report (available online at <http://www.wallawallawatershed.org/partnership/partnership-primer>) that was completed by WRIA 32 Watershed Planning as a reference to projects still underway in the basin. A handout was provided to PAG members with proposed draft strategic actions, and the group engaged in discussion about the proposed actions. There was concurrence that the proposed draft strategic actions were a good starting point, and PAG members asked staff to send out the proposed draft strategic actions for PAG review and feedback for compilation before the next PAG meeting.

**By Friday, June 7th, please review and comment on the proposed draft strategic actions listed below.**

### **Goal 1: Successfully implement innovative water management actions at the basin level.**

Objective 1.1: Enable flexible water management for water users through approval and implementation of local water plans in which stream flow is significantly and measurably improved, groundwater use is sustainably managed, and other water right holders are not involuntarily impaired.

***Proposed draft strategic action 1.2: Approve and implement up to four local water plans by 2012, and up to 10 local water plans by 2019, with measures of success to include tracking flows, groundwater, and impairment.***

Objective 1.2: Implement water banking transactions to reduce water withdrawals, encourage water conservation, protect participants from future relinquishment, and enable reallocation of water.

***Proposed draft strategic action 1.1: Implement up to 40 water banking transactions by 2012, and up to 100 water banking transactions by 2019 with tracking of activities in priority stream reaches, participant protection from relinquishment, conservation promotion, and reallocation of water through the mitigation exchange or water banking program.***

### **Goal 2: Manage water with consideration of all basin needs, including environmental, agricultural, economic and cultural.**

Objective 2.1: Support implementation of Walla Walla Watershed Plan actions.

***Proposed draft strategic action 2.1: Complete 50% of Walla Walla Watershed Plan (2005) actions by 2012. Tracking of progress will include listing actions, lead, description, schedule and cost. (Note: Watershed Plan actions are basinwide and comprehensive, including improve water quality [achieve TMDL goals], increase SAR and ASR, monitoring, improve stream flows, and other water management activities.)***

Objective 2.2: Increase access to, and utility of, WRIA 32 water right information.

***Proposed draft strategic action 2.2: Organize WRIA 32 water right information to facilitate program implementation and public access.***

### **Goal 3: Develop and sustain collaborative partnerships to provide innovative, adaptive solutions to Walla Walla's complex water allocation challenges.**

Objective 3.1: Build and maintain working relationships with partners, stakeholders and governments to improve basin capacity for innovation and collaboration in problem-solving.

***Proposed draft strategic action 3.1a: Participate in events that will encourage relationship building and understanding among the constituents of the groups represented by the Board members.***

***Proposed draft strategic action 3.1b: Convene the PAG once per year to review the effectiveness, completeness and current appropriateness of the Goals and Objectives.***

Objective 3.2: Secure funding to support Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership operations, implementation of strategic actions, and leverage resources for watershed projects.

***Proposed draft strategic action 3.2a: Develop a three-year and a nine-year Partnership Budget and staff workplan with project specific plans.***

***Proposed draft strategic action 3.2b: Identify reliable sources of funding and/or grant sources, and submit funding proposals that support Partnership program goals.***

Objective 3.3: Demonstrate success in piloting collaborative, local water management under RCW 90.92.

***Proposed draft strategic action 3.3: Evaluate success of piloting the authorities through survey of partners, stakeholders, ECY, WDFW and Tribes, and reporting results to legislature and basin partners, while incorporating suggestions for improvement. Ultimately, develop recommendations on the future of the board for submission to legislature.***

**Goal 4: Educate water users and stakeholders about unique Partnership programs for holistic water management.**

Objective 4.1: Develop and implement a communications and outreach plan for Partnership programs.

***Proposed draft strategic action 4.1: Develop and make broadly available a water user informational brochure on creative water management opportunities, maintain website, quarterly newsletter, provide progress reports, presentations to target audiences.***

Objective 4.2: Partner to improve community education and public information on water management.

***Proposed draft strategic action 4.2a: Assist stakeholders in dealing with outside agencies.***

***Proposed draft strategic action 4.2b: Develop a dedicated location in the Partnership newsletter for stories and information from other organizations and actively request articles from all identified entities.***

***Proposed draft strategic action 4.2c: Position staff and Board members to contribute information on Partnership programs and general water management issues in community forums, panels, and presentations.***

To help you provide feedback on the proposed draft strategic actions, you're reminded that the Partnership's effort is required to build upon the watershed plan in WRIA 32, and it is the Partnership's approach to enable strategic actions to be organized into a work plan (comprised of individual project plans) to align tasks with Partnership objectives. In addition, implementation of strategic actions may serve to direct Partnership priorities and may be useful for tracking benchmarks for success. And lastly, the development of draft strategic actions in our current strategic planning effort should focus on identifying actions appropriate for Partnership implementation given current conditions (through 2012), recognizing that more actions can be identified in the future and revised in final strategic actions in the future (2013-2019).

**Please provide your input and ideas on the proposed draft strategic actions, and respond by June 7<sup>th</sup> with your feedback to Cathy Schaeffer at [cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu](mailto:cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu).**

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*Thank you for your participating as members of the Policy Advisory Group.*

*Please contact Cathy Schaeffer if you have any questions at 509.524.5216  
or by email [cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu](mailto:cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu)*