

# *Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership*

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## **Policy Advisory Group Follow-up: April 26, 2010**

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The Policy Advisory Group (PAG) at their April 26, 2010 meeting continued the process to develop recommendations for the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership Board's strategic plan. Considerable discussion occurred, but no consensus recommendations were reached. Therefore, the PAG requested that they take time prior to the next PAG meeting to generate some ideas and comments to share with the larger group at the next convening, with a focus on two areas of discussion: working vision statement, and goals and objectives.

### Working Vision Statement – Core Elements Exercise

At the April 26, 2010 PAG meeting, the PAG reviewed the Board's approval on April 6<sup>th</sup> of the "Working Vision Statement" as follows: **The vision of the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership is to manage water locally to meet the needs of fish, farms and people in the watershed through 2019.** The PAG offered various suggestions to improve the vision without reaching consensus on a recommendation. The PAG requested that additional PAG discussion of vision statement elements occur during the development of goals and objectives, and that you as a PAG member should provide feedback to staff prior to the next PAG meeting to help shape the continuing vision discussion.

By Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, you are asked to consider the working vision statement and provide staff with a list of up to eight core vision elements that you think are most important to include in the Partnership's vision statement. As currently written, the working vision statement includes the following core vision elements:

- Local water management
- Needs of fish
- Needs of farms
- Needs of people
- Watershed scale/location
- Ten-year timeframe (through 2019)

From comments made at the April 26<sup>th</sup> PAG meeting, some additional core vision elements may be gleaned to include: innovative pilot, timeframe oriented toward looking beyond legislation term (ie longer than ten years), new way of managing water, healthy river system, Tribal First Foods, mutual respect, equitable, responsibility for actions, social needs, storage, game needs.

To help you think about core vision elements, review prior meeting handouts emphasizing that a vision is to be a clear, positive statement describing a bright future aligned with organizational values and realistic aspirations, often including a time element when talking of where the organization wants to be in the future. Another way to help you think of core vision elements may be to consider answering the following questions with a succinct phrase or single word, to extract some of your basic thoughts about the Partnership's vision:

- ✓ What impact/results do we want to achieve with Partnership programs and activities by 2019 or beyond?
- ✓ How many and what kinds of people and groups will the Partnership involve/serve, and how?
- ✓ What impact will the Partnership have in the watershed, region, and state?
- ✓ What will the Partnership need to look like in ideal terms to deliver the results and impact listed above?
- ✓ How will the Partnership act? What will its reputation be? What will success look like for the Partnership?
- ✓ What kinds of collaborations will the Partnership be part of?
- ✓ What distinctive features, characteristics and other qualities will the Partnership possess?
- ✓ What would be really different about the Partnership and its impact in the future?

**Now list up to eight core vision elements that are most inspiring to you, and provide these to Cathy Schaeffer at [cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu](mailto:cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu) by May 7<sup>th</sup> for additional discussion of the vision statement at the next PAG meeting.**

## Goals and Objectives – Core Elements Exercise

Discussion of the Partnership's goals and objectives were a major focus of the April 26<sup>th</sup> PAG meeting. Although the discussion did not lead to consensus, PAG members identified the following draft goals by meeting's end:

- Develop and sustain collaborative partnerships to provide innovative, adaptive solutions to Walla Walla's complex water allocation challenges.
- Manage water with consideration of all basin needs, including environmental, agricultural, economic and cultural.
- Successfully implement innovative water management actions at the basin level.
- Educate the community and water users about creative opportunities to meet the basin's water management needs.

The discussion surrounding goals was extensive, with emphasis on the relationship of goals and objectives to Partnership metrics of success. The PAG requested that the draft goals and objectives be distributed to PAG members via email, with feedback to staff prior to the next PAG meeting to shape the continuing goals and objectives discussion. By Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, you are asked to provide feedback on the goals and objectives, aligning the draft statements and providing additional suggestions that you think are important for the Partnership. As currently drafted, the objectives may be aligned under goals as follows:

### **Goal 1: Develop and sustain collaborative partnerships to provide innovative, adaptive solutions to Walla Walla's complex water allocation challenges.**

Objective 1.1: Demonstrate sufficient success in modeling collaborative, local water management by 2019 to warrant becoming a permanent local water management board.

Objective 1.2: Identify a source of funding to support the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership for the 10-year pilot program, 2009-2019.

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

Objective 2.1: 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.

### **Goal 3: Successfully implement innovative water management actions at the basin level.**

Objective 3.1: Implement water banking transactions in priority stream reaches to reduce water withdrawals, protecting participants from future relinquishment, encourage water conservation, and enable reallocation of water.

Objective 3.2: Improve water quality by partnering with local entities to improve conditions and achieve TMDL goals.

Objective 3.3: Increase the quantity and effectiveness of water supply replenishment efforts including shallow aquifer recharge (SAR) and basalt aquifer storage and recovery (ASR).

Objective 3.4: Improve stream flows at critical times for fish species.

### **Goal 4: Educate the community and water users about creative opportunities to meet the basin's water management needs.** No objectives yet identified

To help you provide feedback on the goals and objectives, you are encouraged to remember that the Partnership will ideally identify a limited number of major goals and a moderate list of objectives, with more detailed draft strategic actions developed to address highest priorities. Also a reminder.... Goals are broad; objectives are narrow. Goals are general intentions; objectives are precise. Goals are intangible; objectives are tangible. Goals are abstract; objectives are concrete. Goals can't be validated as is; objectives can be validated. And recall that objectives are intended to be measurable, and are sometimes called outcomes as they can be useful assessment tools. With specificity, objectives can be used to determine whether or not we are successful in achieving the goal. For the Partnership, objectives may be identified to include dates and quantities.

**Please provide your input and ideas on the draft goals and objectives, including suggested revisions and alignment of these draft statements to reflect what you believe is most important in framing the Partnership's future work. Email your ideas and feedback to Cathy Schaeffer at [cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu](mailto:cathy.schaeffer@wwcc.edu) by May 7<sup>th</sup> for additional discussion of goals/objectives at the next PAG meeting.**