

Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership *Partnership Board Meeting Minutes*

Date: December 1, 2009

Type: Regular

Time: 7:00PM–9:00PM

Location: WWCC Water and Environmental Center, 500 Tausick Way, Walla Walla, WA

Meeting was called to order 7:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Jim Barrow (City of Walla Walla), Mike Buckley (Water Right User), Kat Brigham (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Ed Chvatal Jr. (Columbia and Walla Walla County Conservation Districts), Greg Farrens (Citizen at large), Judith Johnson (Environmental Representative), Dick Jones (Columbia County), Greg Tompkins (Walla Walla County), Mark Wagoner (Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13).

Staff Present: Cathy Schaeffer and Matt Rajnus.

Others Present: Bill Neve, Brian Wolcott, Chris Marks, Grant Pfeifer, Greg Kinsinger, Kay Mead, Mike Bireley, Nichole Curet, Paul Wemhoener, Phil Brick, Robert Gordon, Craig Sivley.

A quorum was established.

Introductions:

Those in attendance provided introductions.

Public Comment Period:

Grant Pfeifer, Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Director, reported that Ecology maintains their commitment to providing a watermaster and their support for the work of the Partnership even in light of the reduced budget.

Action 1: A motion was made by Kat Brigham “to have the Board chair and Executive Director draft and send a letter to the Department of Ecology Director and Chief of Staff expressing our appreciation for Ecology’s continuing commitment and support for the Partnership. Ed Chvatal seconded the motioned. The motion carried with all in favor.

Reports:

Cathy Schaeffer presented the October Financial Statement.

Matt Rajnus reported that the Water Resource Panel had met November 17, 2009 and reviewed the draft guidelines and criteria for local water plans and water banking. The Panel will meet again December 17, 2009 at 2:00PM.

Cathy Schaeffer reported that the Policy Advisory Group will meet December 8, 2009 at 4:00PM.

Cathy Schaeffer reported that subsequent to action at the last meeting a letter was sent to Antone Minthorn Chair of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation expressing the Board’s support for the Flow Enhancement Feasibility Study. A second letter was also sent to Chief of Staff Jay Manning and Ecology Interim Director Polly Zehm about convening a meeting to discuss protection of bi-state instream flows. The meeting was convened. Kat Brigham mentioned that progress on the Flow Enhancement Feasibility Study is going well and that they are developing an outreach plan on how to go forward. Mark Wagoner noted that Ecology did a good job in developing a flow protection strategy.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included consideration of the minutes from the November 3, 2009 Partnership Board meeting and approval of vouchers 17 through 29.

Action 2: A motion was made by Ed Chvatal “to approve the consent agenda.” Judith Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Action Items:

None.

Discussion Items:

Cathy Schaeffer presented on the mission, goals, objectives, and vision of the Partnership as part of process to begin development of strategic actions. A review of the formation of the Partnership was provided, providing a summary of documented reasons why the Walla Walla basin is an appropriate place for piloting local water management, and how the Partnership can be the organization to advance the effort. Further discussion on this topic was scheduled to occur at the December 2009 Policy Advisory Group meeting, with next steps to include providing the Partnership Board with a project plan for strategic planning including actions, outreach and funding considerations.

Matt Rajnus presented an update on the status of the Local Water Plan and Water Banking Set-up Project Plans. Draft guidance and criteria were presented with Project Plan final deliverables scheduled to be presented at the January 2010 Board meeting, following the review of the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) and Water Resource Panel (WRP) at their respective December meetings. The Board discussed a draft timeline for filing, review, and approval of Local Water Plans, including the participation of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Action 3: A motion was made by Greg Tompkins to “have staff draft a letter to be signed by the Chair asking WDFW to participate on the WRP instead of the PAG.” Dick Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Additional discussion centered on long term funding, liability for participants and the Partnership Board, appeal process for unapproved Local Water Plans, and the importance of flow timing for fish. There were also suggestions made as to how staff should provide documents for prior review, advising that a hard copy of lengthy documents be mailed to Board members in advance of the next meeting.

Other Business:

Cathy Schaeffer updated the Board that Irrigation New Zealand has contacted the Partnership and requested a representative come to New Zealand for an all-expense paid presentation on the Partnership’s efforts at their bi-annual conference, Ed Chvatal has agreed to attend.

Action 4: A motion was made by Jim Barrow to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.