

Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership *Partnership Board Meeting Minutes*

Date: February 2, 2010

Type: Annual

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: John Barkley (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Jim Barrow (City of Walla Walla), Mike Buckley (Water Right User), Ed Chvatal Jr. (Columbia and Walla Walla County Conservation Districts), Greg Farrens (Citizen at Large), Judith Johnson (Environmental Representative), Perry Dozier (Walla Walla County), Mark Wagoner (Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13).

Staff Present: Cathy Schaeffer and Matt Rajnus.

Others Present: Troy Baker, Mike Bireley, Bob Bower, Terry Bruegman, Doug Case, Gerri Coleman, Nichole Curet, Keith Elefsom, Robert Gordon, Rick Jones, Greg Kinsinger, Chris Kregger, Kevin Kregger, Lorelee Kregger, Paul LaRiviere, Victoria Leuba, Kevin Lindsey, Chris Marks, Kay Mead, Bill Neve, John Pao, Steve Pao, Yancey Reser, Jennifer Svobada, Paul Wemhoener, Brian Wolcott.

A quorum was established.

Introductions:

Those in attendance provided introductions.

Public Comment Period:

None

Reports:

Cathy Schaeffer presented the December Financial Statement.

Matt Rajnus reported that the Water Resource Panel (WRP) did not meet in January and will meet on February 23rd at 2pm at the Water and Environmental Center.

Cathy Schaeffer reported that the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) did not meet in January and will meet in March at a date to be determined.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included consideration of the minutes from the January 5, 2010 Partnership Board meeting and approval of vouchers 46 through 63.

Action 1: A motion was made by Ed Chvatal “to approve the consent agenda.” Greg Farrens seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Action Items:

Selection of a Board Chair for 2010 was discussed.

Action 2: A motion was made by Mike Buckley “to appoint Mark Wagoner as the Board Chair” John Barkley seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Selection of a Board Vice-Chair for 2010 was discussed.

Action 3: A motion was made by Mike Buckley “to appoint Ed Chvatal as the Board Vice-Chair” Perry Dozier seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

An amendment to Agreement 09-03 with Washington Water Trust to extend the period of work for currently authorized budget and tasks through June 25, 2010 was discussed.

Action 4: A motion was made by Perry Dozier “to approve Amendment no. 1 to Agreement 09-03” Greg Farrens seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

An amendment to Agreement 09-04 with Water Right Solutions to extend the period of work, add additional budget, and additional tasks through June 25, 2010 was discussed.

Action 5: A motion was made by Greg Farrens “to approve Amendment no. 1 to Agreement 09-04” Perry Dozier seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion Items:

An update on the status of the Local Water Plan and Water Banking Implementation project plans was presented by Matt Rajnus. With early outreach efforts, contact with 7 potential participants in the water banking program has been made. A proposal on a suggested method for operating a mitigation program for the outdoor use of water related to exempt wells in areas specified in the Walla Walla Instream Flow Rule (WAC 173-532) is being targeted for presentation at the March Board meeting. Work on a potential Local Water Plan Proposal also occurred in the month of January, and there is potential for the Proposal to be formally filed with the Partnership before the next board meeting.

A presentation was given by Bob Bower and Troy Baker, staff of the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, on the findings and outcomes of the “Water Management Initiative Monitoring, Assessment and Aquifer Recharge Program – Phase II”. The program is culminating in the development of a surface water and groundwater model. The presentation also highlighted the data that has been collected and the fact that there is a downward trend in shallow gravel groundwater levels and springs in the Basin. Changes over the last 150 years that have created this disequilibrium were discussed. Of specific interest was the fact that piping irrigation ditches/canals is exacerbating this decline. The next steps for the program is to move from collecting monitoring information and conducting pilot aquifer recharge sites to using this information to recover the aquifers and springs; including the integration of recharge systems into piping projects that are currently being completed on ditches/canals in the Basin. The new phase of this program is called the Aquifer Replenishment and Spring Restoration Program.

Other Business:

Chris Marks updated the group on the Columbia River Water Exchange. Mr. Marks updated the Board on the outcome of a letter that had been sent requesting Washington State meet with Tribes to help develop a reasonable plan to protect the bi-state flows. This meeting occurred and a reasonable plan has been developed. Work is now under way to find funding support. John Barkley noted that a presentation on this project will be made to the Columbia River Water Management Program Feb 17th in Olympia.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M.