

**Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg and Walla Walla
Regional Working Group Members**

Property Owners

- Michael Buckley
- Sheryl Cox

Interest Groups

- Citizens for Good Governance, Don Schwerin
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Jed Volkman
- Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13, Mark Wagoner
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, Steve Martin
- Tri-State Steelheaders, Brian Burns
- Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce, Damien Sinnott

Partner Jurisdictions

- Walla Walla County Planning Commission, Chuck Carruthers (Bruce McCaw, alternate)
- City of Prescott Planning Commission, Brent Potts
- City of Waitsburg Planning Commission, Karen Gregutt (Randy Hinchliffe, alternate)
- City of Walla Walla Planning Commission, Norma Gruber (Larry Bayman, alternate)

Local/State/Federal Agencies

- Port of Walla Walla, Jim Kuntz (Paul Gerola, alternate)
- Washington State Department of Ecology, Jaime Short
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mark Grandstaff (Tim Schirm, alternate)



City of Prescott

April, 2014

**Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla**

Regional Working Group Meeting

Meeting Location: Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 West Main, 2nd Floor Training Room, Walla Walla, WA 99362 [Entrance on Main Street]

**Agenda
April 29, 2014
6:30-9:30 p.m.**

6:30-6:45

Opening Comments and Introductions, Bill Stalzer, SMP Project Team Leader

Next Meeting Agenda

SMP Jurisdiction status of Coppei, Whetstone Hollow, and Yellowhawk Creeks

6:45-7:00

Public Comment Period

7:00-7:20

Overview of Inventory and Characterization Report, Dan Nickel, The Watershed Company

7:20-9:00 [including break]

Discussion of Reaches, Dan Nickel, The Watershed Company, Lisa Grueter, BERK Consulting

- Dry Creek
- Snake River
- Columbia River
- Walla Walla River
- Touchet River, Touchet to Prescott UGA (reaches 1 and 2)
- Bennington Lake

9:00-9:15

Open Discussion

9:15-9:30

Public Comment Period

9:30

Adjourn



City of Prescott

**Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla**

**Walla Walla County Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Regional Working Group
April 29, 2014 Meeting Summary**

Location: Training Room, Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 West Main, 2nd floor, Walla Walla, WA

Attendees: Larry Bayman – City of Walla Walla Planning Commission
Mike Buckley – Property Owner
Brian Burns – Tri-State Steelheaders
Chuck Carruthers – Walla Walla County Planning Commission
Sheryl Cox – property owner
Mark Grandstaff – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Karen Gregutt – City of Waitsburg Planning Commission
Jim Kuntz – Port of Walla Walla
Steve Martin – Snake River Recovery Board
Don Schwerin – Citizens for Good Governance
Jaime Short – Washington State Department of Ecology
Mark Wagoner – Gardena Irrigation District

Absent: Brent Potts – City of Prescott Planning Commission
Damien Sinnott – Greater Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce
Jed Volkman – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Regional Shoreline Master Program Update Project Management Team:

Bill Stalzer – Project Team Leader
Brian Walker – City of Walla Walla Representative

Consultants: Dan Nickel – The Watershed Company
Lisa Grueter – BERK Consulting
Kevin Gifford – BERK Consulting

One member of the public was in attendance

The meeting started at 6:35 p.m.

Bill opened the meeting and stated that the purpose of this meeting and the one next week is to review the accuracy of the information in the reaches for each of the SMP jurisdictional waters.

No comments were offered by the members of the public in attendance.

Dan Nickel gave a brief overview of the work on the Inventory and Characterization report that the consultant team has been conducting since the meetings last fall.

General Discussion Topics/Questions

- The issue of the designation of a portion of Yellowhawk Creek was brought and why more of the creek was not part of the SMP jurisdiction.
- Question if property owners along Yellowhawk Creek had been notified of its inclusion in the SMP; response was that they had not been.
- Question if environmental designations are in the SMP's now or if they are new this year; response was that they are in the current SMP's
- Question if current and future land uses in the report are the same as in comprehensive plans; response was that they are the same.
- USGS modeling: Some members were skeptical of designating creeks based on computer modeling and wanted it noted in the report whether or not the SMP jurisdiction for each river, creek, and lake is based on existing data or computer modeling and how it compares to the 20 cfs mean annual flow SMP criteria.
- It was estimated that the cost of installing a gauging station varies from \$1,000 for a continuous flow station (requires frequent calibration) to \$10,000 - \$15,000 for a telemetered station (used by USGS)

Walla Walla SMP Regional Working Group April 29, 2014 Meeting Summary

- Question if property is removed from the CREP program, would it be treated as a change in use if it goes back to active agricultural use; unresolved.
- Members noted that it would be important to highlight in the report what is new in the SMP since 1970's

Dry Creek

Dan Nickel discussed the work that is being done on Dry Creek and what information has been reviewed and generated. The designation of Dry Creek is based on USGS modeling.

- Many members had concerns about Dry Creek being designated as a jurisdictional water. They noted that many circumstances had changed and that there may not be enough flow in the creek today to meet the 20 cfs mean average annual flow criteria. The members did not want it to be "rubber stamped" as a shoreline if it does not meet the criteria.
- Due to agriculture practice changes (including no till farming), flow may be substantially lower than what USGS model predicts. Some members said the flow is reduced to 20% of historical levels.
- The creek used to scour more with seasonal flow, but now flow is more even.
- Data about flows in Dry Creek may be limited; not sure what may impact the flow, e.g. irrigation withdrawals and cultivation practices.
- Question concerning the actual mean annual flow rate; unresolved
- Question about how the USGS data point was derived; unresolved
- Comment that summer flows are very low (July/ August), whereas winter and spring (February –May) may experience higher flow
- The consultant noted that if subsequent analysis showed that the mean annual flow in a creek was below 20 cfs, it could be removed from SMP jurisdiction
- It was noted that there are historical gage data stations, including at or near the mouth.
- Flood Control District mothballed
 - Dredged in 60's
 - Bridges, diversions
 - Now private bridges

Snake River

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford gave an overview of the Snake River reaches.

- What type of oversight of the Snake River is integrated into the report?
- Questions on personal docks: effect of the SMP; how to repair and replace
- How is upland habitat function addressed? Within 200'; Habitat beyond 200' – not addressed.
- Noted that the sheer rock faces may extend the jurisdiction horizontally more than 200 feet.
- It was noted that Cargill Pond (Corps operated) = public access near Hwy 12 bridge
- Port will grow and change
 - Barge slips
 - More economic development and water development uses
- Corps RGP discussion in report: check if addressed in report; where is transition?
- In report – check if transportation is fully addressed along Snake River. This is an essential corridor.
- Port has wetland delineations adjacent to their industrial uses.

Reaches 3,4,5

- 14 foot navigational channel authorized to be maintained (dredged) throughout
- Corps habitat management areas
- Lots of barge traffic (wood chips)
- Lots of train traffic carrying wood and coal

Reaches 6 and 7

- Lower Monumental Dam – more power lines are expected along the river
- Government owned land – extent near dams
- Note, grain elevator at Sheffler Road
- Correction to Report (restoration opportunities) – there are no main stream tributaries
- Dredge spoils have been added to rip rapped shorelines to fill in interstitial spaces and avoid predation
- How close to the shoreline can you do mineral extraction or gravel quarrying?
- Check current SMP and Comp Plan

Walla Walla SMP Regional Working Group April 29, 2014 Meeting Summary

Columbia River

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford gave an overview of the Columbia River.

Reaches 1-4

- NW Grain Growers LAMIRD was noted
- Highway along the river is a very important aspect of shoreline enjoyment
- Port owns Wallula – open to public access opportunities (limited economic development)
- Fishing on other side – near railroad tracks
- Maybe add a fishing pier at Port Kelly

Reaches 5-8

- Additional – undeveloped industrial land on island – difficult access, future location for restoration near Foundation Island?
- In slough – how do you measure 200' of jurisdiction? From what line?
- How is Port affected by SMP?
 - Already in SMP for some time
 - Work to develop fair regulations
- Who pays for determinations of shoreline jurisdiction boundary?
- Check hydrography layer in order to capture all the islands. Need to revise jurisdiction boundary.
- Wetland delineations have been performed by Port in some areas.
- Lake Wallula: USFWS (transferred from Corps)
- Any restoration work occurring here will likely be performed by the Corps.

Walla Walla River

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford gave an over view of the lower end of the Walla Walla River.

- Members wanted to make sure that the property owners in the channel migration zone were made aware that they may be impacted by new regulations.
- Some members asked about the advantages and disadvantages of including the floodway and floodplain in the regulations.

Reaches 1-3

- Channel migration zone is present; doesn't expand SMP jurisdiction
- CMZ not in SMP now (floodway)
- May be similar to floodway regulations

Due to time limitations the upper Walla Walla River, Touchet River and Bennington Lake were not discussed; they are proposed to be discussed at the May 6, 2014 meeting.

There were no public comments offered during the period at the end of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:30

**Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla**

Regional Working Group Meeting

Meeting Location: Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 West Main, 2nd Floor Training Room, Walla Walla, WA 99362 [Entrance on Main Street]

**Agenda
May 6, 2014
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

4:00-4:20

- Opening Comments, Bill Stalzer, SMP Project Team Leader
- Follow-up to last week's meeting
- Project schedule and summer public meetings

4:20-4:35

Public Comment Period

4:35-6:30 [including break]

Discussion of Reaches, Dan Nickel, The Watershed Company, Kevin Gifford, BERK Consulting

- Walla Walla River
- Touchet River
- Whetstone Hollow Creek
- Yellowhawk Creek
- Mill Creek

6:30-6:45

Open Discussion

6:45-7:00

Public Comment Period

7:00

Adjourn



City of Prescott

**Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla**

**Walla Walla County Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Regional Working Group
May 6, 2014 Meeting Summary**

Location: Training Room, Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 West Main, 2nd floor, Walla Walla, WA

Attendees: Larry Bayman – City of Walla Walla Planning Commission
Mike Buckley – Property Owner
Brian Burns – Tri-State Steelheaders
Chuck Carruthers – Walla Walla County Planning Commission
Sheryl Cox – property owner
Mark Grandstaff – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Karen Gregutt – City of Waitsburg Planning Commission
Jim Kuntz – Port of Walla Walla
Don Schwerin – Citizens for Good Governance
Jaime Short – Washington State Department of Ecology
Mark Wagoner – Gardena Irrigation District

Absent: Steve Martin – Snake River Recovery Board
Brent Potts – City of Prescott Planning Commission
Damien Sinnott – Greater Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce
Jed Volkman – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Regional Shoreline Master Program Update Project Management Team:

Bill Stalzer – SMP Project Team Leader
Brian Walker – City of Walla Walla Representative

Consultants: Dan Nickel – The Watershed Company
Kevin Gifford – BERK Consulting

Two member of the public were in attendance

The meeting started at 4:00 p.m.

Bill opened the meeting. Bill discussed the community meetings in the later part of July. A draft report will go out to the community with more focus on public access and mapping. The planning commissions will be briefed on the status of the SMP update in September, including the community meetings. In early 2015 the schedule calls for up to six meetings of the Regional Working Group for work on the preliminary draft SMP..

General Discussion Topics/Comments

The group discussed cumulative impacts; based on current zoning and permitted uses, the cumulative impacts should be minimal in the majority of the rural shoreline areas. Jamie Short pointed out that every river and stream has flow data except for Whetstone Hollow Creek. Sheryl Cox pointed out that Walla Walla County is ranked 5th in Washington State as a valuable farming county. Nancy Ball commented on the computer data and the modeling of the rivers.

Walla Walla River (Lowden, Touchet area)

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford resumed the discussion of the reaches from the stopping point last week.

- It was noted that the Walla Walla River in these reaches had well functioning Shorelines.

Reaches 4-7

- Public access (WDFW) in reach 4 at McDonald Road, reach 5 just east of McDonald Rd (with gravel boat ramp) and near Detour Rd, and reach 6 at confluence with Mill Creek (fishing access).
- Described meaning of “Ecologic Function” scores

Touchet River

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford presented the reach maps and related information.

- Reach 2 is too big. Comments on the reach West of Harvey Shaw Road and the North Touchet Road reach is different from the reach East of Harvey Shaw Road in the Touchet River Valley adjacent to Highway 125. Noted that farmers have kept the cottonwood tree coverage area near the Touchet River. Consider breaking this up into two sections since upper portion of Reach 2 appears to have more vegetation. Consider split at Lyons-Ferry Rd.
- Priority area in Reach 2 because of 1996 flood on Mill Race
- Conservation Easement from Hart Rd to Hwy 125, needs confirmation
- Prescott Reaches
 - City is all on septic
 - Discussion of need for zoning map
- Waitsburg Reaches
 - Levee is used as trail
 - Most of the shoreline jurisdiction is City – owned land
 - City has annexed treatment plant to the west (need to get data layers)
 - Corps has now required vegetation removal along the levee (not reflected in the GIS data) in Reaches 4 and 5 – this may result in change to functional score.
 - Irrigation withdrawals in Reach 4 for alfalfa
 - FEMA buyout is occurring on both sides of the river through Rankin Park which includes future potential public access.
 - Reach 6 includes “temporary” levee along north side
 - Discussion of need for a zoning map of Waitsburg; response: City will provide

Whetstone Hollow Creek

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford presented the reach map and related information.

- A few members had concerns about the designation of Whetstone Hollow Creek as a Shoreline. It was their opinion that Whetstone is typically dry the majority of the year. However based on the 2003 USGS modeling, Whetstone would be classified as a Shoreline. It was noted that no flow gages are on Whetstone and reliable flow data would take at least two years.
- No other comments.

Yellowhawk Creek (Walla Walla River to Cottonwood Creek)

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford presented the reach maps and related land use information.

- Discussion about the controlled section of Yellowhawk Creek (from the Mill Creek diversion) and this reach where other creeks are joining together.
- Comments about the development and zoning near Yellowhawk and Old Milton Highway.
- Lot sizes are smaller here than elsewhere in County, including some lots located entirely within jurisdiction.

Mill Creek

Dan Nickel and Kevin Gifford presented maps and land use information for the different reaches.

County Reaches:

- Conservation Easement located within reach 1 on Scholl (sp?) property held by Blue Mountain Land Trust
- Discussion and comment about the Rural Residential zoning within the Blalock Area (Campbell Road, Gose Street, area)
- Comment on the Mill Creek east of the City, the Kooskooskie area and the City watershed.
- Reach 15: this is the City’s watershed (City of WW) with very limited access. A map of the watershed area was suggested.
- Restoration opportunities: WDFW commented that the entire lower and upper sections were designated as “protection” vs. “restoration” reaches.

City Reaches:

- Comment on the concrete channel beginning at 9th Ave vs. 6th Ave. Also comment on the federal project that constructed the channel.
- Discussion on the history of Walla Walla flooding and also the designation of the channel.
- Adjust Reach 6 so that it starts at 9th (where concrete channel begins)
- Federal flood control channel within City – this needs to be well noted as a water-related use.
- Old City landfill, north of ballfield park, can never be developed.
- Hydroelectric plant need identified, north of Rooks Park. Note that there is return flow to Mill Creek near Looking Glass Rd.
- Trails need to be labeled
- Heritage Park, near Spokane St., also provides public access
- Special designation for Mill Creek should be considered through city.
- Authentic, simple language. Consider adding a preamble to this section which clearly identifies this as a flood control channel.

Bennington Lake

- Flood control purpose
- Shoreline jurisdiction should not include the raceway

The meeting ended at 7:00

Walla Walla County Regional Shoreline Master Program Update Regional Working Group November 12, 2013 Meeting Summary

Location: Training Room, Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 West Main, 2nd floor, Walla Walla, WA

Attendees:

Mike Buckley –Property Owner
Chuck Caruthers – Walla Walla County Planning Commission
Mark Grandstaff – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Randy Hinchliffe – City of Waitsburg, alternate
Jim Kuntz – Port of Walla Walla
Steve Martin – Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Don Schwerin – Citizens for Good Governance
Jaime Short – Washington State Department of Ecology
Damien Sinnott – Greater Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce
Jed Volkman – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Absent:

Brian Burns – Tri-State Steelheaders
Sheryl Cox – Property owner
Karen Gregutt– City of Waitsburg Planning Commission
Norma Gruber – City of Walla Walla Planning Commission
Bruce McCaw, Walla Walla County Planning Commission
Brent Potts – City of Prescott Planning Commission
Mark Wagoner – Gardena Irrigation District

Regional Shoreline Master Program Update Project Management Team:

Bill Stalzer – Project Team Leader
Greg Tompkins – Walla Walla County representative
Brian Walker – City of Walla Walla representative

Members of the public

The meeting started at 6:37 pm.

County Commissioner Greg Tompkins opened the meeting and expressed the appreciation of the county and each of the three cities for everyone's willingness to serve on the regional working group. He emphasized that members should express their views openly so that various perspectives are considered during the process of updating the shoreline master programs.

Bill Stalzer summarized the agenda for tonight's meeting, the basic format for meetings, and the 3-year project schedule. He described role of the regional working group as the group having the primary responsibility to review and provide comment during the preparation of the draft shoreline master program update before it is transmitted to the various planning commissions. He also pointed out that all documents related to the update, the project management team, and the regional working group are available on the project link on the county website. He asked that each member representing a planning commission or organization designate an alternate and that while both can attend meetings, only one can participate.

General questions and discussion followed including:



City of Prescott

- The affect of the shoreline master program on agricultural activities
- Easements on private land
- Changes made by the State in 2003
- Final approval authority
- Whether the update would change zoning

Two topics generated a more focused discussion:

- Restoration planning and implementation. Some members expressed disappointment that restoration implementation was not required and not funded.
- Determination of SMP jurisdiction waters. There was discussion of the 20 cubic feet per second mean annual flow criteria: how it was determined; accuracy; USGS modeling; fluctuation over time; and verification. Some members believed that Yellowhawk and Coppei creeks should be jurisdiction waters because of the flow and presence of steelhead. Dan Nickel of The Watershed Company stated that there was some data for both creeks. Bill Stalzer pointed out that the project management team had raised a question about whether Whetstone Hollow Creek met the jurisdiction criteria. Bill said that he would discuss conducting additional research for the three creeks with the project management team, The Watershed Company, and Ecology.

Dan Nickel of The Watershed Company made a Powerpoint presentation providing an overview of the shoreline master program update process covering: State Shoreline Management Act; Walla Walla Regional

Shoreline Master Program Update Scope and Timeline; Preliminary shoreline jurisdiction maps and data sources; Shoreline inventory map folio (to follow in December); and the methodology for the inventory and characterization report.

Topics that were raised and discussed during Dan's presentation included:

- Ordinary high water mark, floodway, and floodplains: definition, relationships, basis for determination, data sources, mapping
- FEMA mapping
- Wetland hydrologic continuity/connection
- Aquifers
- Walla Walla basin continuity
- Shoreline inventory and characterization at the reach scale

There were no comments during the public comment period.

The meeting ended at 9:12.



**Regional Shoreline Master Program Update
Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla**

**Regional Working Group
December 4, 2013 Meeting Summary**

Location: Training Room, Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 West Main, 2nd floor, Walla Walla, WA

Attendees:

Brian Burns – Tri-State Steelheaders
Sheryl Cox – Property owner
Norma Gruber – City of Walla Walla Planning Commission
Bruce McCaw – Walla Walla County Planning Commission
Brent Potts – City of Prescott Planning Commission

Absent:

Karen Gregutt– City of Waitsburg Planning Commission
Mark Wagoner – Gardena Irrigation District

Project Management Team:

Bill Stalzer –Project Team Leader
Brian Walker, City of Walla Walla representative

Members of the public

The meeting started at 5:05 pm.

Bill Stalzer discussed the role of the regional working group, the process for meetings, and the shoreline master program amendment process. He emphasized that this process is an update of existing regulations and that the group will function as a citizen advisory group to the project management team.

Bill then presented a Powerpoint presentation providing an overview of the Shoreline Management Act, content of a Shoreline Master Program, the elements of the inventory and characterization report, and the project schedule.

Questions and discussion followed and they focused on the following subjects:

- Converting to new agricultural uses since agricultural uses are permitted. There were concerns that converting to a different agricultural use might be considered a new use.
- Being forced into using data sources and designations that were pre-determined by Ecology.
- Relying on maps that were inaccurate because they were out of date or were inconsistent with the county's critical areas maps. One example given was that the NRCS maps are more accurate than the county's critical areas maps. A second example was cited related to floodways and floodplains. It was suggested that discrepancies between different maps should be noted.
- Including Coppei Creek as was suggested at the regional working group meeting in November. It was pointed out that its inclusion will encumber additional properties unnecessarily with the shoreline regulations since the creek is a small one.
- Accuracy of computer modeling to designate SMP jurisdiction waters when no gage data is available.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.



City of Prescott