

## MINUTES

Walla Walla Regional Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update Project Management Team Meeting  
June 17, 2015 - Walla Walla Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 West Main, Room 203, Walla Walla

NOTE: All documents connected with the agenda for this meeting, as well as all documents related to this project, were previously placed on the county's website for easy public access, AND made available to project team members in advance.

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by team member County Commissioner Jim Johnson. Roll call was held as follows.

Project Team members present:

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| Representing City of Walla Walla                       | Elizabeth Chamberlain, Dev. Services Dept. Director<br>(arrived at 3:13) |
| Representing Walla Walla County<br>Project Team Leader | Jim Johnson, Commissioner<br>Bill Stalzer                                |
| Representing City of Waitsburg                         | K.C. Kuykendall  |

Team members absent/excused: None.

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Representing City of Prescott | Chuck Kimzey, City Council Member |
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A quorum was established.

Others present/in the audience:

Tom Glover, Director, Walla Walla  
Lauren Prentice, Principal Planner, Walla Walla County Community Development Dept.  
One member of the general public

There were no conflicts of interest.

There was no public comment.

### Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda for the June 17 meeting, by Bill Stalzer; seconded by KC Kuykendall. Motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes, from the June 2, 2015, by Bill Stalzer; seconded by KC Kuykendall. Motion passed unanimously.

### Project Team Leader Update

1. Ecology letter suspending funding and County Response

In May the County received a letter from the Department of Ecology explaining that the Washington State Legislature has not yet enacted a state budget to appropriate funds to state agencies for the upcoming biennium (including the Ecology grant program), and asking that the County suspend the grant agreement in the event that a budget is not enacted by midnight on June 30. Mr. Stalzer explained that the draft state budget

includes funding this grant program, and that it doesn't change the June 30, 2016 completion deadline.

2. Memorandum on Status of Initial Costs funds
3. Preliminary Draft Shoreline Master Program Update: June 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Working Group (RWG) Meeting

#### Ecology Comments and Draft Submittal Discussion

Mr. Stalzer explained that the following three issues, raised by Ecology during their preliminary review, were discussed at the June 16 RWG meeting. Mr. Stalzer explained that only seven members of the RWG attended the meeting, but that those in attendance represented a good range of perspectives.

1. *Buffer setbacks*

With no required setback a structure could be built to abut the critical area; resulting in encroachment into the critical area buffer during maintenance and initial construction activities. In the City of Walla Walla critical areas standards a 5-foot setback is required; the County currently has no setback. Commissioner Johnson and Ms. Chamberlain agreed with the RWG recommendation that this 5-foot setback be included for all jurisdictions in the SMP.

2. *Impervious surface limits*

At the RWG meeting, Mr. Stalzer presented a recommendation to add a requirement to the Rural Conservancy regulations placing a limit on impervious surface of 10%, consistent with current WAC requirements; RWG members concurred with this addition. PMT members accepted this recommendation.

3. *Existing riparian buffers*

Both the Department of Ecology and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife upon review of the preliminary draft SMP had made recommendations that the current 50-foot buffer was insufficient ecologically. The buffer was suggested by Ecology to be increased to a minimum of 75-feet. This issue was discussed at length by the RWG on June 16.

Bill Stalzer said he discussed it with Larry Hooker, from the Conservation District, who was on the CAO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); Mr. Hooker confirmed that the current 50-foot buffer was based on existing conditions. Unfortunately there has not been enough time to research this issue, and there is little time to resolve it before the June 30 draft is due to Ecology. Staff and consultants have been unable to find much technical support in the CAO record to support the 50-foot buffer. Mr. Stalzer presented three options:

1. Leave the proposed buffer in the June 30 draft as 50-feet, understanding that comments on the draft will be that the buffer should be 75-feet
2. Include a compromise in the draft, requiring a larger buffer in some cases, while not knowing if it will be supported by Ecology and other state agencies.
3. Change the buffer for Yellowhawk to 75-feet.

After discussing these options, all members agreed on option 1 for the following reasons.

1. There is not enough time to research the issue and come up with a solution before the June 30 deadline.

2. Mr. Stalzer and The Watershed Company will work with Ecology and WDFW during the 60-day review period to come up with a solution.
3. The current 50-foot requirement is consistent with the CAO.
4. There is little scientific information in the WDFW 2008 letter.
5. During the same time period the Cumulative Impacts Analysis (CIA) will be developed.

#### Public Comment

Mr. Stalzer noted that at the June 16 RWG meeting there was public comment that the discussion and opinions of the RWG members throughout the process had been too heavily weighted during economic development interests over environmental interests. Mr. Stalzer said that there were certainly vociferous members at RWG meetings on the economic development side, but that those opinions are not heavily weighted in the draft. He explained that several of the RWG members that represented environmental interests dropped out of the process and did not attend all meetings.

#### 4. Reallocation of funds among tasks in the Ecology Grant Agreement

Mr. Stalzer presented proposed reallocation of funds between tasks in the grant budget.

- Increase Task 1 by \$3,000 to \$41,000
- Increase Task 3 by \$670 to \$43,000
- Increase Task 5 by \$9,330 to \$121,000
- Decrease Task 6 by \$10,000 to \$174,125
- Decrease Task 7 by \$3,000 to \$29,175

MOTION: To approve the budget changes by Elizabeth Chamberlain; seconded by Bill Stalzer. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Next Project Management Team Meeting

The next meeting will likely be scheduled for mid-September.

#### Public Comment

Commissioner Johnson opened the meeting for public comment. None was offered.

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.