

## Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Fall 2004 Revision Process Schedule

- 10/15 Draft Addendum Package provided to WWPU/WWBWC and public
- 10/18 Public Mtg #1 with WWPU/WWBWC to review first drafts, 7pm, Milton Freewater, OR.
- 10/22 Public comment due on Draft Addendum Package by 5:00 PM to:  
Nancy Toth  
700 NE Multnomah, Suite 1000  
Portland, OR 97232-2131  
Email: ntoth@parametrix.com  
Phone: 503-233-2400 ext. 1414  
Fax: 503-233-4825
- 11/3 Final Draft Addendum Package provided to WWPU/WWBWC and public for review and comment
- 11/12 Public comment due on Final Draft Addendum Package by 5:00 PM to:  
Nancy Toth  
700 NE Multnomah, Suite 1000  
Portland, OR 97232-2131  
Email: ntoth@parametrix.com  
Phone: 503-233-2400 ext. 1414  
Fax: 503-233-4825
- 11/15 Public Mtg #2 with WWBWC for review of final draft package and approval for submission to the NPCC
- 11/16 Public Meeting #3 with WWPU for review of final draft package and approval for submission to the NPCC
- 11/26 Final Addendum Package submitted to NPCC

**JOINT MEETING for WALLA WALLA SUBBASIN PLANNING**  
**Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council and WRIA 32 Watershed Planning Unit**  
**Agenda for October 18, 2004**

---

**Date:** October 18, 2004

**Time:** 7:00 -9:30PM

**Location:** Milton Freewater Community Center, 505 Ward Street, Milton Freewater, OR

**7:00-7:10 Welcome and Introductions**

- Brian Wolcott, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council
- Cathy LaRoque, WRIA 32 Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit

**7:10-9:15 Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Discussion and Review of First Draft Addendum Package**

- Background and Review of Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Schedule
  - Walla Walla Subbasin Plan submitted May 28, 2004 to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, culminating 17 months of work by the bi-state planning groups (WWBWC and WRIA 32 Planning Unit) and technical staff (ODFW, WDFW, CTUIR).
  - Summer review period ending August 12, 2004 yielded various comments to be considered during the Fall 2004 fix-it loop.
  - Focus of work for the Fall 2004 fix-it loop to include clarification of some elements, scenarios and prioritization framework development, and addressing comments.
  - Final Addendum due November 2004 for early 2005 adoption of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan into the BPA Fish and Wildlife Program for guiding future BPA funding decisions.
- Review of First Draft Addendum Package and Input by WWBWC and WRIA 32 PU stakeholders
  - Tasks and subtasks addressed in the First Draft Addendum Package.
  - Open discussion of work completed to-date.
  - Upcoming work to be incorporated into the Addendum Package.

**9:15-9:30 Other Items/Next Steps**

- Comments and input on the First Draft Addendum Package are due by Friday, October 22, 2004.
- Final Draft Addendum Package will be available for review November 3-November 12, 2004.
- Final Public meetings will be held on November 15 (WWBWC) and Nov 16 or 17 (WRIA 32 PU) to discuss the Final Draft Addendum Package and develop Final Addendum Package for submittal.

**Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Workshop #1 – to discuss Subbasin Fix-it Loop Documents**  
**WRIA 32 Planning Unit/WWBWC Joint Meeting**

**Meeting Notes**

---

**Date/ Time:** October 18, 2004, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Milton-Freewater Community Center, 505 Ward St., Milton-Freewater, OR

**Attending:** John Warinner (WW Watershed Alliance), Randy Halley, Mark Wachtel (WDFW), Hulette Johnson (Umatilla Co.), Terry Bruegman (Columbia Cons. Dist.), Rick Jones (WW Co. Cons. Dist.), Stephanie Eaton (WWBWC), Zeitel Gray (WWBWC), Mark Wagoner (Gardena Farms Irrigation Dist.), Bob Hutchens, Don Howard, Dayle Rainwater, Robert Gordon (City of Walla Walla), Hal Thomas (City of Walla Walla), Clark Lampson (WWBWC), Eric Hoverson, Nancy Toth (Parametrix), Stuart Durfee (Gardena Farms Irrigation Dist.), Roland Schirman, Tony Justus (OWRD), Kevin Scribner (WW Watershed Alliance), Malcolm Miller (WWBWC), John Zerba (WWBWC), Judith Johnson (Kooskooskie Commons), Betty Walker, Larry Bishop (WW Co. Wheat Growers), Cathy LaRoque (WW Co. Watershed Planning), Keith Woods (Milton-Freewater City Council), Larry Boe, Cheri Cospa (SWCD), Brian Wolcott (WWBWC), Elena Escalante (WW Co. Watershed Planning), John Brough (Hudson Bay Dist. Irrigation Company), Russ Bergevin, Kathy Bergevin, Susie Carlin (Tri-State Steelheaders), Gary James (CTUIR), Jesse Swartz (CTUIR).

**Handouts:** Agenda; EDT Scenario description document; a few copies of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Addendum Document (Oct. 15, 2004 version), sign-in sheet passed around.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- A. November 15: Subbasin Planning Public Workshop #2, 7pm for WWBWC in Milton Freewater.
- B. November 16: Subbasin Planning Public Workshop #3, 6pm for WRIA 32 Planning Unit in Walla Walla.

**Purpose:** To review and discuss the draft Walla Walla Subbasin Addendum Package (see Attachment – PowerPoint Presentation)

**Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Discussion and Review of First Draft Addendum Package:**

- Jesse Swartz (CTUIR) presented an overview of the EDT and the scenarios that were run for the Subbasin Plan Fix-it Loop document.

**Questions from the public:**

**EDT Revisions**

1. In your opinion, what percentage of the river (or section of the river) is restorable? **This is not known.**
2. Will you compare results from EDT with original objectives in the Subbasin Plan? **Yes.**
3. Has there been any work done to test whether the EDT model predictions are accurate for predicted on-the-ground benefits? **This will be done through the RM&E program.**
4. Mill Creek contains a levee, and may be restored to its pre-settlement conditions. Do you still try to model maximal or 100% passage in EDT? **Restoration of Mill Creek may be determined at both the project and at the policy making level.**

**Prioritization**

1. Where is there a non-priority reach with spawning or rearing? **Mark Wachtel (WDFW) gave a couple of examples: Coppei Creek to Waitsburg, Lower Dry Creek.**

2. Can you create Tier #3 priority areas by enhancing flows? **Yes (implication is that this might result in a new area with habitat problems to address).**
3. General concern regarding addressing imminent threats lower in the basin before those higher in the basin. Don't you want to fix the higher end of dry stream stretches first? This approach makes sense for anadromous fish to assist their migration, but not necessarily for resident bull trout. **Here you need to define lower/higher in terms of the specific species you are trying to address (Mark Wachtel). This section will be clarified.**
4. John Marsh noted that there should be a "Step 0" (referring to 'Prioritization Steps' PowerPoint slide – Attachment) in the prioritization steps that consists of a public meeting to incorporate socio-economic factors, and cultural values up-front in determining appropriate projects.
5. If all barriers throughout the basin are improved first (following first priority scheme), will this create new habitat, and is this recognized as new habitat by EDT? **Yes. Some barriers are only partial; therefore, habitat already exists and may still need to be improved.**
6. Comment: *Priority tiers*: There is a need to fund projects in each level, each year, so as not to exclude people and projects; otherwise, you will lose some support and funding. There is also joint funding (cost-sharing) to consider.
7. Isn't the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) approach a good enough approach to use? It incorporates local input and has been tested. **Yes, the proposed prioritization framework in the addendum is based on the SRFB approach.**
8. How do you deal with ranking of experimental/innovative/pilot projects? **This will be added to section 1.3 of the Subbasin Addendum Document.**

**Linkages:**

1. Will the original objectives outlined in the Subbasin Plan stay the same? **Yes, they will not be changed in the revision process.**
2. How will terrestrial information be incorporated? **The information currently in Appendix AD6 of the addendum will be incorporated into the linkages template developed for the aquatic section. Most information is parallel, except that no EDT analysis has been done for terrestrial species. Also, there is a large section of comments and responses included in this appendix that will be incorporated into Appendix AD2 of the Addendum Package.**
3. Regarding the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Vision Statement: Is the section that refers to including socio-economic, cultural, and economic values prioritized? **These three values were deemed (through Watershed Council meetings) to be co-equal.**

**Bull Trout/Spring Chinook Outplanting:**

1. Concern was expressed that the Phaedra Budy study is impacting and killing bull trout as part of the research project. **It was acknowledged that this is a legitimate concern, but it is outside the scope of the public meeting.**

**General Discussion:**

- If there is conflict between the WRIA 32 Planning Unit (WA) and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (OR) sides about an issue that may affect submittal of the Subbasin Addendum Document, how will this be handled? **It was determined that this would be approached in a similar way to that of the May 2004 version of the subbasin plan – the issue in question would be fully described in the addendum so that both sides' opinions are clearly represented. In addition the Subbasin Planning leads from each respective group will work together and if a joint public meeting is needed to address concerns, this may occur.**

# Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council WALLA WALLA SUBBASIN PLANNING

## Topic 1 Agenda for November 15, 2004

---

**Time:** 7:00 -9:00PM

**Location:** Milton-Freewater Community Building

**7:00-7:10 Welcome, Introductions, and Review the Agenda**

**7:10-8:40 Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Discussion and Review of Final Draft Addendum Package**

- Background and Review of Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Schedule (7:10-7:20)
  - Walla Walla Subbasin Plan submitted May 28, 2004 to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, culminating 17 months of work by the bi-state planning groups (WWBWC and WRIA 32 Planning Unit) and technical staff (ODFW, WDFW, CTUIR).
  - Summer review period ending August 12, 2004 yielded various comments to be considered during the Fall 2004 fix-it loop.
  - Focus of work for the Fall 2004 fix-it loop to include clarification of some elements, scenarios and prioritization framework development, and addressing comments.
  - Final Addendum due November 26, 2004 for early 2005 adoption of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan into the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program for guiding future BPA funding decisions.
  - 1st Public Meeting to address Draft Addendum Package held October 18, 2004.
- Final Draft Addendum Package
  - Updates to Sections 1.1 and 1.4 based on additional EDT runs. (7:20-7:40)
  - Updates to Section 2.2 based on RM&E Meetings. (7:40-8:00)
  - Major Comments received from Public Review. (8:00-8:35)
  - Update of electronic version of May 2004 Version of Subbasin Plan (8:35-8:40)

**8:40-8:50 Consideration of Decision by WWBWC**

- Approval of revisions to the Addendum Package as discussed tonight and submission of a Final Addendum Package to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

**8:50-9:00 Schedule/Next Steps**

- WRIA 32 Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit Meeting on November 16, 2004.
- Final Addendum Package submitted to NPCC on November 24, 2004.

**Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council**  
**November 15, 2004**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Council Members: Kat Brigham, Ed Chesnut, Stuart Durfee, Clark Lampson, Malcolm Millar, Vern Rodighiero, Kevin Scribner, Dick Stewart, Larry Widner, Keith Woods, John Zerba.

Guests: Jon Brough, Tom Buell, Don Butcher, Tom Darnell, Todd Davis, Dana Dibble, Elena Escalante, Robert Gordon, Gary James, Judith Johnson, John Marsh, Tom Page, Carol Poppenga, Jack Ruthven, Jesse Schwartz, Nancy Toth, Teresa Yeager.

Staff: Bob Bower, Gina Massoni, Bob Chicken.

Minutes from the October 18, 2004, meeting were approved as submitted.

Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Addendum: John Marsh, Parametrix Inc., reviewed the process so far. This is the last round of revisions to clarify some elements and address comments received during the summer public review period of the Plan that was submitted May 28, 2004. The Final Addendum containing the revisions is due to NWPCC next week. There will then be a 60-day public comment period. It is expected that the final plan will be adopted in early 2005 to guide future BPA funding decisions for the NWPCC Fish and Wildlife Program. The final draft addendum package contains updates based on additional EDT model runs of restoration scenarios, updates to the RM&E plan, and responses to comments received.

EDT Model: Jesse Schwartz, CTUIR Fisheries, reviewed the EDT model and discussed the process to improve the best available scientific information, also the Research, Monitoring & Evaluation (RM&E) plan. In partnership with a group of scientists, he fixed many data input errors, and added recent passage info and data from the ODEQ TMDL modeling effort. The EDT model results (found in the appendices to the SBP) now tend to show better estimates of current fish productivity and lower estimates of historical productivity. It takes 3-5 hours to generate each data point on the graphs so not all possible scenarios were run, but more can be run in the future. The model has been widely peer reviewed, but it is only a tool to indicate what impacts various habitat restoration strategies might have on endangered fish (also combinations of actions). It only models steelhead (and then only aggregated for the whole subbasin) and chinook. The "rules" for bull trout are still in development. The RM&E plan is ready for technical review this week.

There was concern about the model and the plan being used for enforcement. John Zerba said that the plan is a guide to use when deciding on where restoration should happen and project prioritization. We know we can't do all projects and it wasn't the intent of the model to show everything. There was concern that CRP landowners haven't been active in the planning process. Much public outreach has been done and there is still the public comment period once NWPCC receives the final version of the plan. EDT could also be used to show impacts of degradation actions like taking land out of CRP.

Comments: John Marsh reviewed the substantive comments received (most others were editorial, some addressed typos). The final Addendum has the list of comments in it and the SBP Teams' response. Use of non-native species is not precluded (like for CREP). Education will be listed as a distinct management strategy to collect all the times it appears under other strategies. Areas of the Little WW that meet the definition of imminent threat to ESA-listed fish will be given priority, otherwise monitoring. The SBP Team will meet on Wednesday with WDFW to address their comments. Work outside of priority geographic areas CAN occur and be supported, but it must a solid justification will be required. The prioritization framework will be fine tuned in the future. More EDT runs will be done over time to help decision-making. The City of Walla Walla is

concerned about Mill Creek and multiple uses. They feel funds for habitat restoration in that area must come from other than the City. The Mill Creek Working Group is tasked with seeking solutions. The Bull Trout Species Report (developed for the HCP process) has many problems identified by the biologists. It will be included in the SBP plan, but has been referred back to the HCP process for further development. Ed Chesnut gave some written comments to John Marsh.

There was concern at the meeting that including the Rainwater project model results could be perceived to show bias, as it is the only individual project included. It was a specific modeling request in response to several public invitations for what scenarios to run. Flow restoration was included (which is a collection of projects). The modeling is only showing predicted responses to an action. A disclaimer will be added that the plan is not endorsing specific projects. Other projects could be modeled in the future.

Vote: Ed Chesnut moved and Kevin Scribner seconded that WWBWC vote it's approval for submission to NWPC of the addendum package to the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan with the changes as discussed. It was unanimously approved. There will be a November 2004 version of the plan with all the typos fixed and references to the addendum as an appendix. It will be available on the [www.wallawallawatershed.org/subbasin.html](http://www.wallawallawatershed.org/subbasin.html) website and through WWBWC.

ODEQ Pesticide Study proposed: Don Butcher presented on behalf of Gene Foster, Oregon DEQ toxicologist interested in applying for EPA319 funds (proposal due November 29) to evaluate pesticide risks to listed salmonids and water quality in the Walla Walla Basin. DEQ is seeking local support for the proposal. The intent is to help collect baseline information throughout Oregon on pesticides in surface water, not be regulatory, but the data would be public. Don read the list of chemicals of interest, mostly insecticides/organo-phosphates, but this could be expanded based on local request (perhaps nitrates?). It was recommended that the idea be presented to the Blue Mountain Horticulture Society for their review. More detail could be presented at their annual board meeting in February. WWBWC would support if BMHS were interested.

Check Signing: OWEB requires bonding for financial mismanagement and the bond requires checks have two signatures. John Zerba proposed adding staff Brian Wolcott and Gina Massoni as signers and having John Zerba and Vern Rodighiero remain as Council signers. A check would then need one staff and one Council. Malcolm made the motion, Kevin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements:

- Copies of Coordination Report for 7/03 – 6/04 available. Good summary of WWBWC work.
- Tom Darnell will host a meeting in January to discuss the future of his extension position. Hermiston has some interest in having the position located there.
- Kat Brigham expressed concerned about how the Subbasin Plan will be used and how it ties into other planning processes. CTUIR is putting together comments to this effect and would like support.

# WRIA 32 Watershed Planning Unit WALLA WALLA SUBBASIN PLANNING

## Agenda for November 16, 2004

---

**Time: 6:00PM – Dinner\*; 6:30PM – Meeting**

*\*Pizza and refreshments will be provided*

**Location: WA State Department of Transportation, 1210 G. Street, Walla Walla**

**6:00-6:30 Dinner**

**6:30-6:40 Welcome, Introductions, and Review the Agenda**

**6:40-8:10 Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Discussion and Review of Final Draft Addendum Package**

- Background and Review of Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Schedule (6:40-6:50)
  - Walla Walla Subbasin Plan submitted May 28, 2004 to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, culminating 17 months of work by the bi-state planning groups (WWBWC and WRIA 32 Planning Unit) and technical staff (ODFW, WDFW, CTUIR).
  - Summer review period ending August 12, 2004 yielded various comments to be considered during the Fall 2004 fix-it loop.
  - Focus of work for the Fall 2004 fix-it loop to include clarification of some elements, scenarios and prioritization framework development, and addressing comments.
  - Final Addendum due November 26, 2004 for early 2005 adoption of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan into the NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program for guiding future BPA funding decisions.
  - 1st Public Meeting to address Draft Addendum Package held October 18, 2004.
  - WWBWC Meeting on November 15, 2004.
- Final Draft Addendum Package
  - Updates to Sections 1.1 and 1.4 based on additional EDT runs. (6:50-7:10)
  - Updates to Section 2.2 based on RM&E Meetings. (7:10-7:30)
  - Major Comments received from Public Review. (7:30-8:05)
  - Update of electronic version of May 2004 Version of Subbasin Plan (8:05-8:10)

**8:10-8:20 Consideration of Decision by the Planning Unit**

- Approval of revisions to the Addendum Package as discussed tonight and submission of a Final Addendum Package to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

**8:20-8:30 Schedule/Next Steps**

- Final Addendum Package submitted to NPCC on November 24, 2004.



**-DRAFT-**  
**Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit**  
**Meeting Notes**

---

**Date:** November 16, 2004

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:15 p.m.

**Location:** WA State Department of Transportation, 1210 G. Street, Walla Walla, WA

**Attendees:** Betty Walker, Bob Hutchens (Columbia County), Cathy LaRoque (WW County), Jean Dalling, Elena Escalante (WW County), Jesse Schwartz (CTUIR), Hal Thomas (City of WW, Public Works), John Marsh (Parametrix), Judith Johnson (Kooskooskie Commons), Kevin Scribner (WW Watershed Alliance), Mark Wachtel (WDFW), Randy Halley (City of Waitsburg), Rick Jones (WW Conservation District), Roland Schirman (Columbia County), Russ Bergevin, Stuart Durfee (Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13), Tom Page, Yancey Reser, Nancy Toth (Parametrix), Susie Carlin (Tri-State Steelheaders), Kathy Bergevin.

**Handouts:** Agenda; October 18, 2004 Planning Unit meeting minutes from workshop held in coordination with the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council to discuss the October 15, 2004 version of the Walla Walla Subbasin Addendum Document.

**Summary of Action Items:**

1. Elena Escalante will post PowerPoint presentation by Dave Mastin online at [www.wallawallawatershed.org](http://www.wallawallawatershed.org) prior to the November 29, 2004 Planning Unit meeting. The PowerPoint slides were presented at the November 9, 2004 Steering Committee and provide an overview of potential implementation framework for the WRIA 32 Watershed Plan.
2. Elena Escalante will post the May 28, 2004 Subbasin Plan version of the EDT model online at [www.wallawallawatershed.org](http://www.wallawallawatershed.org).
3. Cathy LaRoque will notify the Planning Unit voting members not in attendance at this meeting that if they disagree with the proposal to submit the Subbasin Plan Addendum they should contact Cathy LaRoque by Friday, November 19, 2004.
4. Cathy will contact the initiating governments (Walla Walla County, Columbia County, Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13, and the City of Walla Walla) to get a letter of support for submittal of the November, 2004 version of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan and Addendum Documents.

**Housekeeping:**

- The sign-in sheet was passed around. Cathy LaRoque gave an overview of the purpose for this meeting which was to review the Subbasin Plan Addendum document and to approve submittal of it to NPCC (Northwest Power and Conservation Council).
- Cathy also reviewed the following upcoming meetings:

November 29, 2004, 3:30PM: Instream Flow Subcommittee, Walla Walla County Watershed Planning Conference Room, 310 W. Poplar, #001, Walla Walla.

November 29, 2004, 7:00PM: Planning Unit Meeting, WA State Dept. of Transportation, 1210 G. Street, Walla Walla.

- Cathy proposed that the Planning Unit Meeting be changed to the Steering committee in order to continue implementation discussion. Cathy noted that with other ongoing planning efforts (Subbasin Planning, Instream Flow setting) being so time-consuming, the Planning Unit may not need to meet. To enable the larger group to discuss the implementation framework, the Planning Unit did not agree to change the meeting to a Steering Committee and the November 29, 2004 meeting will continue to be a WRIA 32 Planning Unit meeting.

## **Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Discussion and Review of Final Draft Addendum Package:**

### ***Background and Review of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Schedule***

Cathy noted that the first public meeting was held on October 18, 2004 in Milton-Freewater, OR in coordination with the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC). The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council met on November 15, 2004 and approved submission of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Addendum Document to NPCC. Cathy continued, stating that the Planning Unit will be asked at this meeting to approve submission of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Addendum Document. On November 17, 2004, 8:00 a.m. the Subbasin Planning Team will convene to discuss comments submitted by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on the Subbasin Addendum Document.

### ***Final Draft Addendum Package***

#### *Updates to Sections 1.1 and 1.4 based on additional EDT runs:*

Jesse Swartz (CTUIR) reviewed the updates to Section 1.1 and 1.4 that have been worked on since end of the November 12, 2004 public comment period. He presented a PowerPoint slideshow similar to the slides presented at the October 18, 2004 meeting. Different scenarios were run with various interest groups submitting requests. Cathy noted that the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) scenarios ran were developed through the Subbasin Planning Team (SPT) members. Jesse commented that the EDT model may be used in developing other processes, such as the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board plan. Jesse noted that that the May 28, 2004 version of the EDT model will be posted on the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council's website as well as the Walla Walla Watershed Planning website hosted by Walla Walla County. John Marsh (Parametrix) reiterated to the group the purpose of a model; what it does and does not do. A model is a tool to help to inform decisions; it does not make the decisions.

One of the notable conclusions from the EDT modeling effort was that a dramatic response was not seen from increasing flow. More response was seen from increasing other variables such as riparian restoration.

Question: Did you model attributes by different geographic areas?

Answer: Yes. Different scenarios were run for smaller areas such as tributaries and different geographic areas as well as scenarios run for the entire Subbasin.

#### *Updates to Section 2.2 based on RM&E meetings:*

Jesse reviewed the Research Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E) updates that were made after the November 12, 2004 public comment period. Cathy noted that when the RM&E was submitted with the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan May 28, 2004 version, it still needed additional work. The Subbasin Plan Fix-it Loop provided the opportunity to improve the RM&E plan.

#### *Major comments received from Public Review:*

John Marsh reviewed a table that summarized several comments submitted from the public during the November 12, 2004 public comment period. Discussion regarding the drying up of the Little Walla Walla River system ensued. The definition of an 'Imminent Threat' was discussed. It is recognized that there are areas in the Little Walla Walla River system that are imminent threats.

Discussion regarding the channelized section of Mill Creek occurred. Hal Thomas stated that the City of Walla Walla acknowledges that channelized section of Mill Creek is considered a high priority for restoration. In addition, the City of Walla Walla recognizes that the Corps. of Engineers built the Mill Creek channel and the Federal Services should provide funding for restoring or "fixing" Mill Creek. Hal commented that essentially the

Flood Control District owns the structure, Department of Ecology owns the water, and the Corps. of Engineers owns the design.

A comment was made that the Mill Creek structure was built to get water through the City of Walla Walla without causing flood damage. Water rights must be met downstream. It was suggested that Yellowhawk Creek be used as an alternative for fish passage. Cathy LaRoque noted that there are many complexities in the Yellowhawk and Mill Creek systems. One avenue for strategy development may be in the Mill Creek Work Group.

Comment: Values have changed throughout time. When structures such as Mill Creek were built, they were not built with fish in mind.

Question: Where does Walla Walla County stand on the liability issue?

Answer: Cathy stated that the County acknowledges the issues and difficulty of solving them. A broad-based solution is needed to address the issues. There is also a liability issue because of the fish passage problems.

Comment: Yesterday at the Subbasin Planning Team meeting there was discussion regarding how to address reconfiguring channels in the event of a flood and whether or not a river/creek should be put back into its' original channel. Discussion ensued regarding who is responsible for such events as well as the cost. It was recognized that the opportunity to discuss this issue will continue in the WRIA 32 Watershed Planning effort.

Question: Has a study been completed comparing water velocities above the concrete channel and below looking at bed scour and bank sloughing?

Answer: Glen Mendel's has looked at that somewhat. Jesse Schwartz noted that within the RM&E bed scour has been looked at, but the biological impacts are not well understood. It was also noted that additional study, regarding groundwater and surface water exchange, has been emphasized in the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan.

Comment: It should be noted that upstream impacts may influence things downstream (i.e. buried fuel tanks may be an upstream issue).

#### **Consideration of Decision by the Planning Unit:**

Cathy requested that the Planning Unit approve submission of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Addendum document on November 24, 2004. Cathy noted that 11 voting members are in attendance; 14 voting members are needed for a quorum to be present. The group discussed the best approach to approve submission of the Subbasin Plan Addendum document without a quorum present. The Planning Unit recognized that since numerous actively engaged voting members attended the Oct 18, 2004 public meeting but were unable to attend tonight's meeting, indicating support for moving forward even though they could not attend this meeting. Cathy LaRoque will notify the Planning Unit voting members not in attendance that if they disagree with the proposal to submit the Subbasin Plan Addendum they should contact Cathy LaRoque by Friday, November 19, 2004. With Planning Unit approval, Cathy will contact the initiating governments (Walla Walla County, Columbia County, Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13, and the City of Walla Walla) to get a letter of support.

#### **Other Items/Next Steps:**

The next Planning Unit meeting will be held on November 29, 2004 at 7pm in Walla Walla.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

## Response to Comments: Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Addendum Document

The following document was presented and discussed at the Walla Walla Watershed Council Meeting on November 15, 2004 and at the Walla Walla Planning Unit Meeting on November 16, 2004.

Below are comments to the final draft of the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan Addendum Document that were received during the public review period (November 3-12, 2004). This Response to Comments document reviews substantive comments received on the draft Addendum Document that was produced on November 3, 2004. Comments are organized by the comment author, and are provided in no specific order. In addition, a number of editorial comments were received. These will be incorporated to the extent possible, but are not discussed individually below.

Author & Comment	Response
<b>Terry Bruegman, Columbia Conservation District</b>	
1. Not in 100% agreement with statement that screen diversions need to start at the lower reaches of system; should be evaluated on case-by-case basis and treated as priority anywhere in the basin. This addresses passage issues. Others have also expressed this concern.	See p. 9-10 of addendum document. Add assumption statement that generally passage projects lower in the subbasin provide more benefits for migrating fish than projects higher in subbasin, therefore, lower projects are higher priority <i>generally</i> . But, exceptions to this general priority can be funded if fully justified.
<b>Brian Wolcott – Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council</b>	
2. RM&E section 3.10.4: database from Walla Walla Habitat Conservation Plan does not include information specific to spring Chinook or other subbasin plan focal species.	Database does need to account for all focal species and species of interest. This has been addressed in RM&E section.
<b>Roland Schirman</b>	
3. H-4 - Why Rainwater? I would like to see this removed, as there are other areas with high value.	WDFW had similar comment; suggested adding disclaimer: “It is not the purpose of the Subbasin Planning Process to endorse, propose, or permit specific projects that would be used to implement strategies.” In addition, WWBWC called for SPT to determine whether to remove Rainwater project from the appendix.

<b>Author &amp; Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
4. p. 17, #1 - There are times when non-native species are superior to native in that they offer greater protection and/or are better competitors with invasive species. This refers to revegetation sediment control projects.	The language in #1 does not preclude the use of non-native species to achieve effective treatment and control of noxious weeds. CRP and CREP frequently use non-native species for this purpose.
5. Should education be a separate general management strategy category since it is a part of several general management strategies?	Education is recognized as a viable part of several management strategies. An additional general strategy will be written to address education.
<b>Native Creek Society, Tom Page</b>	
6. Plan and/or addendum document should declare as a priority restoring year round water to formerly perennial streams that are now being dried up for extended periods in order to divert water to the mainstem Walla Walla River – these dry stream beds should be considered an imminent threat in section 1.3 of addendum.	Some of these reaches are recognized as imminent threats because they affect ESA-listed species. In the instances where Little Walla Walla reaches are not imminent threats, the plan does support groundwater monitoring and further study of groundwater interactions in the Walla Walla and Mill Creek alluvial fans to address the problem. See recommendations under Spring Source/Distributary System (p. 175-178 of WW Subbasin Plan).
<b>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, John Andrews</b>	
7. Concern with restoration/protection work being performed outside of agreed upon geographic prioritization areas – recommends removal of this language.	Geographic priority areas should not be disregarded. Selection of projects for implementation in non-priority areas will be an exception and require justification that demonstrates why they should be selected instead of projects in priority areas. Will add some language clarifying the intent and use of the levels of priority in section 1.3.
8. Why was EDT modeling done to areas outside of priority geographic areas? Need an explanation and disclaimer to state this work is not meant to contradict agreed upon priorities, objectives, and strategies in the plan.	See above response. SPT will address and add clarification language if needed.

<b>Author &amp; Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
9. Section 1.3 of addendum should state that prioritization framework is only proposed, not agreed upon at this point – more review is needed.	Will add language clarifying that this is a work in process and will be fine-tuned and used in future planning processes.
10. Additional EDT scenarios that have not been completed as of yet will not have time for thorough review – need disclaimer to address this.	Will add language addressing this issue. Also, SPT will address and add clarification language if needed.
<b>City of Walla Walla, Robert Gordon</b>	
11. Add new bullet under Imminent Threat ranking criteria (p. 10) describing areas with multiple uses that need to be considered.	SPT will address and add clarification language as needed.
<b>Various Commenters</b>	
12. A number of people commented on the questionable completeness and accuracy of the bull trout species report (Appendix AD4).	The work plan for this portion of the Addendum called for updating the bull trout species report produced in the HCP process. This was intended to be limited to four specific deficiencies in the species report. The volume of additional comments received during the review cannot be addressed at this time. These comments will be bundled with the species report in Appendix AD4 and will need to be addressed in the HCP process.