WALLA WALLA
WATER 2050

Strategic Planning
Advisory Committee
Meeting

September 23, 2020
GROUND RULES

- Only SPAC members may speak during the meeting.
- Other participants may speak during public comment.
- All participants at SPAC Meetings agree to:
  - Be Respectful
  - Be Constructive
  - Be Productive
  - Bring a Sense of Humor and Have Fun
- General Public (non-SPAC members) may submit comments at any time via the virtual tools.
• WELCOME
• INTRODUCTIONS
• REVIEW AGENDA
• REVIEW & APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY
INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call

REMINDER: Unmute yourself to speak to the group.
AGENDA

• Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda
• Floodplain Issues
• Updates
  • Report to the Legislature
  • Strategic Plan: Comments on Current Conditions
  • Story Map
  • USGW Groundwater Study Blog and Video
• SPAC Discussion: Desired Future Conditions
• Topics for August SPAC Meeting/Future Meetings
• Public Comment
• Updates and Next Steps
MEETING SUMMARY

- Questions, comments, edits?
- SPAC members: Virtual Tools (see link in chat)

REMINDER: Use the chat or hand raise function to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
Floodplain Issues
OVERVIEW OF FLOODPLAIN HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Gary James, CTUIR
WALLA WALLA WATER 2050
MILL CREEK FLOOD PROJECTS
Tracy Schwarz, PE, PMP
Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch
Walla Walla District
Date: 23 Sept 2020
TWO THINGS TO COVER TODAY

Mill Creek Flood Control Project Operations

Mill Creek GI Study proposed Changes
MILL CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

- Flood Risk Management Features

1. Flood Storage
   - Diversion Dam
   - Storage Dam

2. Flood Conveyance
   - Levee Channel
   - Concrete Channel

Primary purpose of the project is to provide the City of Walla Walla and adjacent downstream areas flood protection. Other project functions include fish, wildlife and recreation.
STORAGE PROJECT FEATURES

• Diversion Dike and Dam
  • Spillway 17,000 cfs capacity
• Gates
• Intake Canal & Channel
  • 7,000 cfs capacity
• Reservoir (Bennington Lake)
  • Operating range 1180-1265 feet
  • Recreation Pool 1205 feet
• Storage Dam
• Two Outlet/Return Canals
MILL CREEK PROJECT OPERATIONS
Guide to Operations

Pass inflows under 1,400 cfs

Inflows off the chart are individually studied

Reservoir Pool Elevation (ft. NGVD29):

- 1180
- 1190
- 1200
- 1210
- 1215
- 1220
- 1230
- 1235
- 1240
- 1245
- 1250
- 1255
- 1260
- 1263

Off the Chart:

- 1931
- 1996
- 2020
Reservoir can discharge ~400 cfs but outflow reduces as lake is drawn down (250 cfs Russel Creek, 190 cfs Return)

Russel Creek outlet is only used when out of bank flooding along Russel Creek will not be induced. Feb. 12, 2020 combined release was ~280 cfs

Time to Elevation 1213 ft: 10 days (Top of Cutoff Wall/reservoir is ~ 20% full)

Time to Elevation 1205 ft: 13 days (Rec. Pool / reservoir is ~ 13% full)

Time to Elevation 1187 ft: 16 days (Empty)
CONVEYANCE - DOWNSTREAM CHANNEL
MILL CREEK GI STUDY

Note: 6,000 cfs at risk of inundation is areas of light blue, dark blue is primary Mill Creek channel.
MEASURES DEVELOPMENT

• Input from stakeholders and the public was sought for the development of measures at the following events:
  - 4-day USACE/sponsor workshop
  - Stakeholder charrette
  - Public scoping meeting

• 25 structural measures and 8 non-structural measures were identified for the initial qualitative screening.
INITIAL QUALITATIVE SCREENING
RELATIVE RANKING

Initial screening and relative ranking eliminated measures that:
• Did not in part meet the project purpose – FRM
• Did not meet applicable treaties, laws, executive orders, and regulations
• Were not Feasible based on initial analysis of costs and benefits
• Did not rank (cost) higher than other measures that offered the same FRM benefits

MEASURES CARRIED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS
1. Rehabilitate Deteriorating Sections of Concrete Channel
2. Lake Excavation: To Increase Storage Capacity
3. Levee Raise: To increase Conveyance Capacity
4. Modify Project Operations

POPULAR MEASURES NOT CARRIED FORWARD
1. New Dam in the Basin
2. Bypass Channel around Community
3. Setback Levees
4. Mill Creek Storage Dam Raise to Increase Storage Capacity
5. Improve Fish Passage
6. Improve Concrete Channel Aesthetics
TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN FOR MILL CREEK GI PROJECT

- Initial diversions start at 1,700 cfs (up from 1,400 cfs),
- Levee Raise to design flow of 3,700 cfs (up from 3,500 cfs),
- Channel Rehabilitation: Pier replacement under Building at 1st and Main, Otis Street Wall Repair, Parking lot/channel cover removal between 2nd and 3rd Avenues

Picture Above – Concrete Channel repair location
Picture to Left – Levee Raise location
LEVEE RAISE AND CONCRETE CHANNEL REPAIRS

Levee Raise Location | Left/Right* Bank | Length | Raise Height
--- | --- | --- | ---
1 At the Division Works | Left Bank | 265 feet | Up to 1 foot
2 Directly east of Tausick Way | Left Bank | 560 feet | Up to 1 foot
3 Directly east of Wilbur Ave | Left Bank | 450/10 feet | Up to 1.5 feet
4 Directly east of the railroad bridge | Left & Right Banks | 800/20 feet | Up to 2.2 feet
5 Between 13th and the railroad bridge | Left & Right Banks | 730/20 feet | Up to 2 feet
6 Directly east and west of Myra Road | Right Bank | 890/20 feet | Up to 0.5 feet

Concrete Channel Repair Location | Repair Type
--- | ---
1 Between Merriam St and Otis St | Wall Tie Back
2 Directly east of 1st Ave | Center Wall Reinforcement
3 Directly east of 2nd Ave | Ceiling Span Removal
4 Parking area between 2nd Ave and 3rd Ave | Ceiling Span Removal

Backgrounds:
- Star: Beginning/End of the Mill Creek Flood Control Project (MCFCP)
- Upstream/Downstream Channel Sections (levees on both sides of Mill Creek)
- Concrete Channel Section (Roosevelt to 9th Avenue)
- Railroad (for context only; not fully extended)
- Levee Raise/Concrete Repair Location

Legend:
- 4,000 feet
WHY A LEVEE RAISE?

We just passed well over 4,000 cfs February 7, 2020. Why do we need to raise the levees for 3,700 cfs?

Levees need assurance (freeboard) for uncertainty.
- Uncertainty in operations/hydrology
  - Gages cannot be trusted during a flood – the gage read up to 800 cfs low in Flood of 2020.
  - Fluctuation in regulated flows 400 cfs observed in 2020 (we cannot maintain a steady regulated flow)
- Uncertainty in hydraulics
  - Waves
  - Friction
  - Banking

Waves Downstream 9th and upstream Gose Street
Questions!
Following Slides are extras that may help with questions
SETBACK LEVEE

Length – 17,400 feet Upstream + Middle + Downstream
NURSERY BRIDGE FLOOD ISSUES
Brian Wolcott, Walla Walla Watershed Basin Council
LOCAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FLOOD CONTROL
Todd Kimball, Walla Walla County
Updates
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

• Status updates
• SPAC questions and discussion?

REMINDER: Use the chat or hand raise function to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
CURRENT CONDITIONS DRAFT CHAPTER

• Preliminary review of draft chapter:
  • Working Groups 9/4 - 9/15
  • SPAC 9/28 - 10/2

• Planned Timeline for SPAC/WG review of full drafts:
  • Informal Draft #1 – 3/1 - 3/12
  • Formal Draft #2 – 5/3 - 5/14

• Final Draft due to Ecology 6/25

REMINDER: Use the chat or hand raise function to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
REMINDER: Use the chat or hand raise function to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
1. Introduction
   a. Brief paragraph about the basin and the planning efforts
      i. Location of basin, area, population
      ii. Legislation behind planning efforts
      • Statutory requirements
      • High points of what the major efforts are
      iii. Brief summary of planning efforts goals/purpose

2. Historic and current of water use in the basin (both surface/groundwater uses)
   a. Ag water use
   b. Tribal needs for water resources – fisheries resources
   c. Other (muni, industry, existing water storage, water delivery infrastructure, recreation, tourism, quality of life, etc.)

3. Basin overview (hydrology)
   a. Discussion of the major rivers and streams
   b. Irrigation canal systems
   c. State of salmon and their habitat

4. Water rights
   a. Brief intro to water rights
   b. Adjudication
   c. Talk about over appropriation and interstate issues

5. Major Issues in the basin
   a. *Sourced from SPAC*
   b. Takeaways from gap analysis (delta between current conditions and desired future conditions)

6. Future plans and needs
   a. What does the basin need to succeed moving into the future (i.e., strategies / recommendations)
• Ecology wants to use the story map as a communication tool for the Walla Walla 2050 planning effort.
• However, Ecology strongly feels that the core message about what’s important should come from the people that call the WW basin their home.
• Ecology wants input on whether the SPAC recommends that we highlight specific issues.
• What should be the main focus of the story map?
• SPAC members: Virtual Tools *(see link in chat)*
  • Submit comments on Slide 2

REMINDER: Use the chat or hand raise function to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
10-MINUTE BREAK

*(come back at 3:00 PM)*
Bi-state partnership boosts understanding of Walla Walla River basin

Groundwater study will inform future policy

Sept. 9, 2020
Ryan Lancaster

Search blog posts

Email

Subscribe

Related links
• Walla Walla 2050 - Washington Department of Ecology page
• Oregon Water Resources
SPAC Discussion: Desired Future Conditions
OVERVIEW

- Please refer to the “Discussion Guide: Desired Future Conditions” and “WWW2050 WG Desired Future Conditions Printable Version.”

- WGs and Consultant Team have been gathering input and synthesizing data on desired future conditions.

- Intention of today’s discussion is to identify key questions with the Desired Future Conditions as well as gather input from SPAC.
KEY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- For each category, are there **Desired Future Conditions** you would like to add? Delete? Revise?
- Are there **metrics to measure progress**—and **potential sources** for metrics—you would like to add? Delete? Revise?
- What are the **most important future conditions** (and/or metrics) to focus on?
- What **level of detail** would you like to see for these Desired Future Conditions in the strategic plan?
- What **additional ideas** would you like the Working Groups to address regarding the Desired Future Conditions?

**REMINDER**: Use the **chat or hand raise function** to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
Topics for Future Meetings
DISCUSSION

- Review additional materials from Working Groups for Strategic Plan
- Presentation Ideas from past discussions:
  - Using LIDAR to anticipate how and where hydrology impacts flooding
  - Overview of Irrigators and Irrigation in Watershed
  - Past, current and potential funding sources for basin projects
  - Bi-State Flow Study
  - How is each state addressing the instream flow protections?
  - Basin hydrology, including existing monitoring sites
  - Forest management
  - Existing and future conservation projects
  - Agency programs and roles in watershed (which agencies?)
  - Other

REMINDER: Use the chat or hand raise function to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
PUBLIC COMMENT

• Comments/questions?
  • General Public: Virtual Tools *(see link in chat)*
  • Public comments may also be submitted online at anytime: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWW2050](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWW2050)
    • Anyone may submit comments at this link throughout this process.

**REMINDER:** Use the chat or hand raise function to submit questions and comments and/or request to speak to the group.
• UPDATES & NEXT STEPS
UPDATES & NEXT STEPS

• Action items
• Updates and announcements
• Upcoming meetings:
  • **SPAC**: October 28 from 1-4:30 pm
  • **Working Groups**:
    • Joint Ecological Function & Water Supply Needs WG: October 15 from 1-3 pm
    • Land Use, Admin, and Implementation: Look for Doodle Polls soon!

REMINDER: Use the chat or hand raise function to submit updates and announcements, and/or request to speak to the group.