

BAC DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall Open House

Prepared for September 2023 BAC Meeting

Background

We are planning a public workshop in November. The PFO Work Group has discussed possibilities and ideas for such an event. The Work Group identified the need to:

- Inform participants about the water and stream health issues facing the Basin and the solutions to these challenges
- Inform participants of the tribes' connection to water in the Basin since time immemorial
- Engage people who aren't already familiar with the Walla Walla Watershed work and think about event formats that will be inviting to a broader audience
- Share maps to help people identify where they live and where they get their water from

PFO members emphasized the importance of attracting people who aren't already involved in this work and had concerns that a facilitated stakeholder workshop might not bring in new people. The facilitation team and Tri-Sovereigns reviewed PFO feedback and decided that an open house would be better suited for raising public awareness, sharing information about projects in the Basin, and inviting new people to be involved.

The **three objectives** for the open house are:

- Build public awareness and understanding of water and watershed issues in the Walla Walla Basin
- Connect attendees' personal experiences of water in the Basin to overarching concepts of water scarcity, long-term watershed goals, and restoration efforts
- Share updates on projects and progress made on water and stream health issues in the Walla Walla Basin

The open house will be from 4 – 8 PM, in the Ballroom of Whitman College's Reid Campus Center, on Thursday, November 18th. We will have a short period of structured time (~ 4:30 – 5:00 PM) that will include a Tribal elder welcome and a short presentation on water issues in the Basin and our work to solve these issues. After that, the Open House offers free, unstructured time for attendees to visit stations and tables around the room. Food will be provided.

For the full draft agenda, see page 2.

BAC Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any questions or suggestions for the open house structure or agenda?
2. What stations and content would you like to see highlighted at the open house? Do you or your organizations have projects, programs, or materials that you would like to present?
3. How might BAC members help promote this event? Are there particular promotional methods you recommend for appealing to a broader audience?

DRAFT Open House Agenda

Agenda Overview

Time	Duration	Item
4:00 – 4:30	30 min	Attendees arriving
4:30 – 4:45	15 min	Tribal elder welcome
4:45 – 5:10	25 min	Overview on water in the Walla Walla Basin
5:10 – 5:20	10 min	Orientation to open house
5:20 – 8:00	2.5 hours	Open house tabling and stations
After 8:00		<i>Post-event:</i> Optional informal happy hour

Detailed Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter(s)
4:00 (30 min)	Attendees Arriving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees receive name tags Chairs set up for tribal welcome Welcome posters with introductory information 	
4:30 (15 min)	Tribal Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal elder welcome Tribal connection to the Basin, water, and fish Historical and present-day context: why is water an issue in the Walla Walla Basin? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTUIR Tribal Elder CTUIR Representative

4:45 (25 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview on water in the Walla Walla Basin • How does water impact your community? How do these issues affect you? • River and stream health in the Basin • What are we doing to solve these issues? Walla Walla 2050, Basin Advisory Committee, recent wins, and funded projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAC member presenters
5:10 (10 min)	Orientation to Open House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief State welcome • Describe tables and stations to visit • Note BAC members' badges – local experts! • Point out food and bathrooms • <i>[Potential]</i> informal happy hour to follow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and OWRD
5:10 (~2.5 hours)	Open House! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free time for attendees to visit tables & stations • Food available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station hosts (listed below)
8pm (X min)	Closing and clean up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Potential Stations & Hosts

<i>[Potential]</i> Station Topic	Host	Station Details
Room Area 1: What are we doing? Walla Walla 2050 Work		
Projects funded through OCR funding	Project sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project sponsors create a poster or set up a table describing their funded work
Walla Walla 2050	BAC members and/or facilitation team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing posters with a few key ideas/strategies from the plan • Table with copies of plan and QR codes to download plan • Sign up sheet/QR code for listserv and more information
Event feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any questions you didn't get answered tonight? • What are your primary concerns about water in the Walla Walla Basin? 	Facilitation team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymous paper and/or online form for people to provide feedback for future events

Chinook return & hatchery updates	CTUIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table + visuals (posters, photos, videos)
Mill Creek fish passage improvements	Tri-State Steelheaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table + visuals (posters, photos, videos)
Room Area 2: How does water impact you and your community?		
Virtual tours of Walla Walla		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video tour footage to run on loop Aerial footage?
Agriculture and water conservation practices	Food/wine growers - TBD	
Water source mapping	OWRD and Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well connectivity maps, well logs, and printers to print individuals' information OCR well mapping work across state lines Interactive maps – attendees can add a pin to their closest waterway/body of water
TBD	City of Walla Walla?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
TBD	City of Milton-Freewater?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Write-in activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does water mean to me? I use water for... My favorite waterway is... Water is important to the Walla Walla Basin because... 	(No hosts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write-in activity where people can add their answer to a sticky note or blank space on a poster Spread out around the room Add crayons and paper for drawings
OWRD groundwater simulators	OWRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table with groundwater simulators
Room Area 3: What is the status of river and stream health?		
Do you live near a stream? Stream-conscious behavior and riparian restoration	Kooskooskie Commons, WWCD, WWBWC, Tri-State Steelheaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table + visuals (posters, photos, videos)
Land use and management	BLMT? Counties?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">