

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3 MINUTES

North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition – A VSWCD Initiative  
USBR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Grant



“To mobilize a diverse group of North Fork Payette River Watershed stakeholders to identify watershed challenges, develop Watershed Restoration Plan and identify funding sources for plan implementation.”

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**Date/Time:** October 12, 2023 | 9 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** VSWCD Office & Zoom

**Purpose:** Final planning and coordination for proposed initial NFPR Watershed Coalition Meeting

## Steering Committee Attendees:

### In person:

Durena Farr – VSWCD District Manager, CWMP Manager

Art Troutner - Chairman, Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

### Remote:

Judy Anderson - Supervisor, Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Maureen Pepper - NRCS

Kara Utter - Dynamic Visions GIS & Mapping Specialist

Melissa Jayo – USBR

Ken Roberts – Local Rancher and Businessman

Daina Aguas – Public Outreach

McKenzie Kraemer – Micael McKenzie Inc.

## Agenda Minutes:

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Follow-up on Action Items from last meeting

#### a. Update on discussions regarding mission statement

- Melissa led a discussion on revisiting the mission statement draft (read aloud by Art): “To mobilize for action a coalition of diverse stakeholders to strengthen our watersheds’ resilience to increasing pressures and understand our responsibility in protecting and preserving our waters for the benefit of all.”
- Durena mentioned that the mission statement can be further refined with input from the coalition and that we need to convey that each subgroup impacts the watershed and has a responsibility to protect it
- The steering committee voted to finalize and adopt the mission statement draft

#### b. Messaging for select groups still in need of work

- Durena listed goals: (1) to identify potential projects (2) identify leads for the following groups:
  - Local Governments/Districts: mayors, city council folks
  - Agriculture/Water Users
  - Recreation Industry
  - Educational Services
  - Citizens
  - Forestry
- Group discussion confirmed that the goal for steering committee members is to develop and deliver specific messages to these stakeholder groups, which is the responsibility of the group leads
- Committee leads will engage with the public at the kickoff event and gather information about stakeholders
- The concept and responsibility of different stakeholder groups is reflected in the mission statement
- Melissa suggested that we revisit the lead assignments and send out a more detailed description of the “lead role”

- Ken mentioned that lead groups must keep good relations with their represented groups and channel their group feedback in discussions
- Melissa suggested that this project needs to have strict planning and documentation as planning unfolds through group discussions
  - a. WaterSMART likes to see a set plan for grant projects to deem them successful
- Kara drafted a role description for stakeholder group leads and entered it into the chat: “Facilitate a committee focused on a group of similar stakeholders in efforts to meet the mission of the coalition, including building the committee, reaching out to stakeholders and other community members, customize messaging that meets the understanding and needs of the particular group of people”
- Durena mentioned that desirable local government leads should have a level of expertise in the subregions of the watershed
- Judy Nissula was mentioned several times as a good connection for finding stakeholders and community leaders
- Group leads should research and identify people who are already active in local watershed conservation as important contacts in the project. These contacts are important for Coalition expansion
- Ken mentioned that there is a community leadership workshop taking place on November 6 (this could be important for networking) [See attached link to the workshop](#)
  - Durena followed up and suggested that the kickoff meeting take place in the new year to allow more time for planning and to avoid conflict with other big events
  - Judy raised a concern about whether quarterly reports would be done in time and Melissa affirmed that the group is on track with this
- Ken volunteered to lead the local agricultural producers
- The group discussed possibly running a booth on the Coalition at the November 6 workshop and brought up that there are existing displays the Coalition can use
- Kara raised discussion on what the actionable request is for the different stakeholder groups and stated that we have not created the objective for these groups yet
  - Judy A. agreed that that has not been defined yet but that committee members need to identify priorities to tackle their respective watershed quality issues
  - Melissa stated that the funding for this project is specific to identifying the existing issues and developing a priority list to then secure more funding for future projects
  - Durena commented that the stakeholder groups need to be able to see current and past projects that take place on each topic and mentioned that stakeholders need to add more ideas for similar projects. Ken agreed.
- Ken questioned if this grant includes planning education for the different groups. Melissa confirmed that education can be part of the stakeholder group objectives. Melissa reiterated that this grant is specifically focused on writing the plan to improve watersheds and shows commitment to the end goals
- Durena listed different grants that can be shared with stakeholder groups as a part of the plan development
- Judy emphasized the need to educate recreationalists. She suggested that committee members attend the public library discussion “When is Recreation Wreckreation?” on October 17 at 6:30 PM to connect with stakeholders
  - McKenzie expressed concern that this title could be detrimental to project relationships and Judy responded that it is not related to coalition topics

### 3. Discussion Topic

#### a. NFPR Watershed Coalition Meeting #1

- Melissa agreed that a November kickoff meeting would be too soon and the group agreed

#### b. Outreach and Advertising for 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

- Star-News, FB, email list, website, in-person communications, ect.
- Durena introduced Daina Aguas as the new public outreach/communications manager
- Durena confirmed that a January group would be best for the kickoff date
- McKenzie spoke on the social media plan, which has been put into a calendar
  - She mentioned that any messaging on important talking points should be brainstormed so that the planning committee members can give consistent information
  - She stated that social media is a good start but we need to budget for advertising efforts. Consistency is key for advertising and marketing.

- The committee members established that the second Thursdays of November and December would be best for media planning meetings (at 9AM)
  - November 9 at 9AM
  - December 14 at 9AM
- c. Steering Committee members encouraged to recruit people for the coalition

#### 4. New Business/ Good of the Order

- Melissa set an action item: each person finds a new recruit to join the coalition as a stakeholder
- Nugget of wisdom and good reading “Getting in Step: Engaging and Involving Stakeholders in Your Watershed” emailed to committee by Durena
- The group moved Judy A. discussion on coalition meeting governance and formally assigning action items to next meeting

#### Links

Economic Development Summit, November 6<sup>th</sup> - <https://visitmccall.org/event/west-central-mountains-economic-summit/#:~:text=Mark%20your%20calendars%20for%20Monday,for%20more%20information%20and%20registration.>

## Draft Timeline of Historic Work/Projects in the NFPRW

### North Fork Payette River Historic Water Quality-Related Events 1890-2023

Year	Event
1890	US Fish Commission notes Sockeye Salmon & 27' water clarity in Payette Lake
1910	First major sawmill at McCall built. Payette Lake used as a mill pond & for log drives. Timber harvest increases.
1923	Cascade Mill opens
1924	Little Payette Lake and Black Canyon Dams Built
1948	Cascade Dam Completed Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act) enacted
1957	Valley SWCD forms. Starts land-leveling projects & reorganizing irrigation systems
1964-1969	Health Dept studies show bacterial contamination of Payette Lake from septic systems
1968	Boulder Meadows Dam completed
1969	Gold Fork Flume Rebuilt
1972	Clean Water Act reorganized and expanded
1973	ID Dept Health: Cascade Reservoir Water Quality Survey - Documents blue-green dominated algal blooms. Recommends every effort should be made to reduce nutrient flow to the reservoir and sewage treatment practices should be followed to prevent bacterial contamination of the reservoir.
1975	Payette Lake - EPA study finds 68% of P coming from NFPR inflows & nearshore impacts Lake Cascade - ID Dept Health Clark & Wroten Report finds algal blooms. Identifies Boulder Creek & McCall wastewater treatment lagoons as major coliform contaminant sources. Advocates reason to maintain water quality is for recreational value of reservoir. EPA - Water Quality Studies, Payette River Basin and Cascade Reservoir Idaho
1977	Waste treatment plant completed in Donnelly to improve water quality flowing from Boulder Creek into Cascade Reservoir
1977	EPA National Eutrophication Survey - Considers Cascade Reservoir eutrophic. Identifies seepage of shoreline recreational homes, excessive algal growths, low oxygen levels in deeper waters, minor fish kills, and shoreline growth due to nutrient contamination as problems of significance Mill closes on Payette Lake
1981	Falter study finds nearshore nutrients and bacteria in Payette lake and oxygen deficiency in deep water
1982	Payette lakeshore sewer line built - eliminates shoreline septic systems
1983	USBR Zimmer Report - Phosphorus Loading & Bacterial Contamination of Cascade Reservoir
1984	Min. Pool Storage set to 60% at Cascade
1985	Idaho Power Modifies Powerhouse Intake at Lake Cascade Lake Cascade - IDHW Assessment of WQ Impacts Idaho adopts new septic regulations
1986	One of the first gravity pipelines installed in Valley County Lake Irrigation District study identifies alternatives to better utilize and improve irrigation water management
1989	CHD Privy Sanitation Survey of West Mountain Area - Report 72% of privy are substandard
1991	Cascade Reservoir Resource Management Plan by Entranco Engineers - formal program and policy guidelines to USBR Cascade Reservoir Watershed Project Water Quality Management Plan published by VSWCD, IDEQ, & Entranco Engineers multi-agency effort to reverse the trend of increasing algae blooms and water clarity in Cascade Reservoir by reducing phosphorus loading North Fork Payette River from Cabarton Bridge to Banks designated as state recreational river by IDWR
1993	Cascade Reservoir - Health Advisory, 23 Cattle Died & Fish Kill Big Payette Lake Act passed, Water Quality Council forms
1994	Cascade Reservoir - Health Advisory & Fish Kill Payette Lake - Wildfire burns 52% of watershed
1995	North Lake Rec Sewer & Water Dist. Established & Wetlands Constructed
1996	South Lake Rec Water & Sewer Dist. Established McCall NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit Issued IDEQ - Cascade Reservoir Phase I Watershed Management Plan EPA TMDL APPROVAL (1st) - Cascade
1997	IDEQ technical report on the Water Quality of Big Payette Lake published - finds that 1994 fire effects include nitrogen spike, higher temps, algae blooms, oxygen deficits, anoxia, and symptoms of eutrophication Cascade Reservoir Restoration project - 20 projects implemented by landowners around Lake Cascade

- 1998 Big Payette Lake Management Plan adopted by Idaho Legislature  
IDEQ - Cascade Reservoir Phase II Watershed Management Plan  
Mahala Ditch Irrigation diversion and fish ladder completed on Lake Fork Creek
- 1999 North Fork Payette River from Headwaters to Payette Lake Inlet designated as state recreational river by IDWR
- 2000 IDEQ Implementation Plan for Cascade Reservoir Phase II Watershed Management Plan - identifies and describes specific pollutant controls and management measures to be undertaken  
J-Ditch Completion  
VSWCD helps with 33 landowner contracts in Boulder, Mud, and Willow Creek Watersheds
- 2001 USBR Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment published  
Boise-Cascade Mill closes in Cascade
- 2002 USBR Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan - outlines how BOR will manage Lake Cascade  
Irrigation & Pasture BMP Effectiveness study completed  
Groundwater monitoring network established in Valley County
- 2004 Lake Cascade Northern Pike minnow Eradication
- 2007 IDEQ - North Fork Payette River Watershed TMDL Implementation Plan
- 2009 IDEQ Lake Cascade Phase III Water Quality Management Plan - finds that phosphorus was reduced by 70% of the goal (only have 30% reduction to go)  
New NLRWDS wastewater treatment facility completed
- 2011 IDEQ Cascade Reservoir Tributary TMDL Addendum - developed sediment TMDLs for Gold Fork River, Boulder Creek, & Mud Creek
- 2013 McCall wastewater treatment plant liner leak into NFPR
- 2017 IDEQ 5-year Review of Lake Cascade published  
IDHW & IDEQ develop HAB Response Plan
- 2018 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued
- 2019 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued  
Payette Lake algae blooms emerge, lake water clarity down to 14-20'
- 2020 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued
- 2021 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued  
Payette Lake - IDEQ HAB Alert
- 2022 IDEQ Lake Cascade Monitoring Report finds total P, pH & chlorophyll-a targets are not being met & beneficial uses are impaired due to nuisance algae growth  
IDHW Potential Toxic Algae Alert - Lake Cascade to Black Canyon Dam (NFPR)
- 2023 Valley County adopts waterways management plan  
Petroleum product discovered in Payette Lake

Information thanks to research of: Dave Simmonds, Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council; Lenard Long, Friends of Lake Cascade; and Kaylee Tuning, North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition

# CWMP Schedule

