



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Okanogan Watershed Planning Unit has worked hard to develop water management policies that reflect the nature and social framework of our region. This plan is the result of thousands of volunteer hours spent reviewing pre-existing studies, directing new analyses, and discussing management strategies. These efforts took place between September 23, 2004 and April 23, 2009 during evening meetings. Most months included meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

INITIATING GOVERNMENTS

The Initiating Governments for the Okanogan River Watershed (Water Resource Inventory Area 49) include Okanogan County, Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District, and the City of Omak. The Initiating Governments are ultimately responsible for the content of this watershed plan but recognize that it would not be the quality document that it is without the direct input of our local citizens who devoted their time to this process.

PLANNING UNIT MEMBERSHIP

The Planning Unit is comprised of members from multiple organizations and citizens-at-large that have a vested interest in the management of our water resources. Some members came and went while others gritted it out from beginning to end. Each person gave something unique and important to the process and to the greater knowledge and understanding of their fellow members. Below is a list of all those who served at least some time on the committee at various levels of the process.

Okanogan County

Commissioner Mary Lou Peterson,
Member

Nick Christoph, Alternate

Nathan Wehmeyer, Alternate

Oroville – Tonasket Irrigation District

Tom Scott, Member

Karen Richardson, Alternate

City of Omak

Mayor Dale Sparber, Member

Mayor Cindy Gagne, Member

Chad Short, Alternate

Okanogan County Horticulture Association

John Bartella, Member

Rick DeLap, Member

Okanogan County Cattlemen’s Association

Jerry Barnes, Member

Derek Olma, Alternate

Private Timber Management

Steve Mitzner, Member

Well Drillers

Chester LaFontaine, Member

Don Engle, Alternate

Mining

Jon Winter, Member

City of Okanogan

Councilmember John Combs, Member

Ray Clements, Member

Ray Doll, Alternate

City of Tonasket

Councilmember Jill Vugteveen, Member

Chris Branch, Alternate

City of Oroville

Rod Noel, Member

Chris Branch, Alternate



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Town of Conconully

Dale Brown, Member
Leland Church, Alternate

Non-Irrigation District Irrigators

Jim Utt, Member

Other Irrigation Districts

Walter Olson, Member
Jerry Barnes, Alternate

Environmental Organizations

Jere Gillespie, Member

Recreation

Genna Swan

Sportsmen

Dave Buckmiller, Member

Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society – British Columbia

Lionel Dallas, Member
Gwen Montieth, Member

Okanogon County Farm Bureau

Steve Lorz, Member
Sara Kretz, Alternate

Okanogon County Granges

Jackie Bradley, Member

Okanogon County PUD #1

Jeff Deason, Member
Doug Adams, Alternate

Landowner at-large – North

Mike Kelly, Member

Landowner at-large – Central

Mariah Cornwoman, Member

Landowner at-large – South

Walt Roys, Member

Okanogon County Citizens Coalition

Bonnie Lawrence, Member

Business and Economic Development

Dick Lorz, Member

At-Large Members

Lee Prewitt
Karl Sloan

TECHNICAL AGENCY ADVISORS

The Watershed Planning Unit would like to recognize the following members who served as non-voting technical advisors. These individuals provided considerable input on technical details and facts and were extremely helpful at disseminating technical information and translating technical jargon.

- Rusty Post, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Nancy Wells, USDA Forest Service
- Aaron Penvose, Washington Rivers Conservancy
- Greg McGlaughlin, Washington Water Trust
- Mark Cookson, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ken Bevis, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Joe Kelly, USDI Bureau of Land Management
- Skip Stonesifer, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service

CONSULTANTS & GUEST SPEAKERS

The Okanogon Watershed Planning Unit conducted, with the help of the Lead Entity, a selection process through competitive bidding to secure the services of a qualified contractor for collecting and disseminating existing natural resource studies and for further studies if warranted. The Planning Unit selected ENTRIX, Inc. of Seattle, WA as the



consultant for this project. ENTRIX sub-contracted with Highlands Associates of Okanogan and MWH of Seattle for additional assistance.

The Planning Unit also received presentations from various guest speakers with technical specialties related to water management. These included:

- Chris Branch & Rod Noel, City of Oroville – Growth & Development-North Okanogan Valley, Potential Impact on Water Supplies, Water Rights & Irrigation
- Lionel Dallas, President, Lake Osoyoos Water Quality Society – Ground Water Assessment in the Okanogan Basin & International Cross Border meeting
- Dennis Dorratcague & Dave Whitbeck, MWH – WRIA 49- Water Storage Assessment
- Jeff Fisher, ENTRIX, Inc. – Water Quality
- Cody Fleece & Woody Trihey, ENTRIX, Inc. – Instream flow models
- Dan Haller, Department of Ecology – Water Rights 101
- Anna Hoselton & Ron Dixon, Department of Ecology, & Chester LaFountaine & Don Engle – Hydrogeology 101 & the Okanogan Watershed
- Perry Huston, Director, Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development – Discussion of proposed Eagle Canyon Development and exempt well use
- Kris Kauffman, Department of Ecology, - Instream Flows – and how the Okanogan River rule was set
- Marilyn Lynn, Foster Creek Conservation District & Lee Hemmer, Douglas County Watershed Planning Association- Douglas County Watershed Planning Association; How the process went;
- Dr. James Lutz, University of Washington, College of Forest Resources – Provided data on the water balance using a Thornthwaite model
- Greg McGlaughlin & Jason McCormick, Washington Water Trusts & Lisa Pelly, Washington Rivers Conservancy – Trust Water in Washington State
- Mark Peterschmidt, Department of Ecology - TMDL Presentation
- Scott Pattee, Hydrologist, Natural Resource Conservation Service – Snow pack measurement and stream flow forecasting for Washington State
- Jeremy Pratt, ENTRIX, Inc.
- Jim Ross, Department of Ecology – Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)- Testing for water quality
- Derek Sandison, Department of Ecology, Central Region Director- How Watershed Planning can interact with the Columbia River Basin Water Management Program
- Steve Wilbur, ENTRIX – Water Quantity: Water Balance
- Greg Wilder, Director, Okanogan County Office of Planning & Development- Okanogan County Comprehensive Planning process and impact on the watershed planning.



LEAD ENTITY

The Initiating Governments requested the Okanogan Conservation District be the lead entity for this planning process. The District Board of Supervisors agreed to the role after several discussions with the Initiating Governments about the process and roles. The District was responsible for securing funding contracts from the Washington Department of Ecology, facilitating the Planning Unit meetings, contracting with consultants, and coordinating the overall process. The following are several key staff members of the District who helped shepherd this process.

- Craig Nelson, Conservation District Manager – Craig served as the Planning Unit Facilitator and assisted with drafting the Watershed Plan;
- Bob Clark, Conservation District Technical Program Lead – Bob served as the program coordinator and Watershed Plan writer;
- Laura Clark, Conservation District Administrative Program Lead – Laura served as the alternate facilitator for the Planning Unit;
- Adrian Cuzick, Conservation District Conservation Planner – Adrian served as a Watershed Plan writer, researcher, and troubleshooter.

Thanks to Andrew Phay, GIS Technician/Cartographer/Information Technology Administrator, Whatcom Conservation District, who provided and formatted data on short notice that was essential for Dr. Jim Lutz in his preparation of the water balance.

The Okanogan Conservation District sincerely thanks the members of the Okanogan Watershed Planning Unit for their time and energy during the development of this plan. Local citizen input is critical to the development of effective natural resource management policies. The members and alternates of the Planning Unit are great examples of community leaders and we appreciate all that you have given to this process.