



Moses Lake Watershed Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

In-person/Teleconference

CBCD Office

903 W. 3rd Ave, Moses Lake, WA 98837

Meeting Minutes

Call to order - 10:01 AM

Introduction - Ron Sawyer

Attendance: Ron Sawyer, Ty Swartout, Jason Buck, Kristina Ribellia, Griffin Hansen, Sam Castro, Richard Teals, Beth Yonko, Ryan Van Goethem

Online: Anna Maletzke, Deanna Martinez, Gene Welch, Lynne Lynch, Harold Crose, Stephanie Shobell, Gina Hoff, Justin Moore

Council Member Reports/Updates - (All)

Phosphorus Mitigation Project - Ryan Van Goethem

Seven totes of EutroSORB WC will be applied to complete the 2024 project, with a possible second round of seven more totes through a pending MLIRD project. A video was provided by EutroPHIX about the lake treatment.

City of Moses Lake - Deanna Martinez

Griffin Hansen (CBCD) presented on the Urban Water Efficiency Program (UWEP) at the most recent city council meeting. The City plans to include information about the UWEP in the upcoming utility bill. Additionally, the City is exploring funding opportunities to expand outreach efforts related to the program.

Concerns about potential drought conditions were discussed, particularly among surrounding counties. At this time, no water use restrictions are planned by the City.

A tree currently located in the water was discussed. Due to permitting restrictions with the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District (MLIRD) is currently unable to take action to remove it.

Grant County Health District - Stephanie Shopbell

The new Environmental Health Inspector will be starting next week. The District is currently



ordering outreach signage to raise awareness about blue-green algae on the lake. Recruitment for *Healthy Lakes Tracker* volunteers will begin soon.

Grant County Tourism - Lynne Lynch

The Water Conservation newsletter has been distributed. The newsletter is available on the City's website and has also been shared through the City's social media channels.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Gina Hoff

Grant County's Water Marketing Strategy plan has been awarded by the Bureau. Efforts are now underway to implement the plan.

Washington Department of Ecology - Ron Sawyer

Currently in the process of modifying existing grants to accommodate the groundwater study, which is costing more than originally anticipated. Ecology is also working to secure funding for the Westshore project. Additionally, there was mention of cows in the north end portion of the lake, which has been identified as a recurring issue.

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife - Ron Sawyer

A new employee has joined the Warmwater Fish Program based in Ephrata. Dave Burgess, a fisheries expert, recently spent an hour with the Columbia Basin Conservation District team discussing fisheries in the Crab Creek drainage. Efforts are underway to identify potential partners to assist with fish monitoring in that area.

Citizen Representative - Ty Swartout

Working on getting insurance set up with CBCD for Carp Classic. The 2025 Moses Lake Carp Classic is scheduled for May 17, 2025, at Connelly Park in Moses Lake. In support of the event, Moore Brewing in Moses Lake is launching a special beer, donating \$1.25 to the Carp Classic for every beer sold. This was their highest-selling beer for the month of March.

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District - Sam Castro

Sam Castro with MLIRD has joined the Washington State Lake Protection Association (WALPA) committee and helped coordinate the location for the 2025 WALPA conference. The Moses Lake Watershed Council will participate in the event as a presenter. The recent lake cleanup was a success, with 2,000 pounds of garbage removed from the lake area. A soft start for Connelly Park has been implemented, which is now closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and insurance is required for any fishing tournaments held there.



Mitigation work for the Moses Lake aquatic project is progressing, with Phase 1 now complete. Although funds for the project were previously frozen, they are no longer on hold and have been earmarked; an update is expected in approximately two weeks. Additionally, a decision on funding for the next phase of the mitigation project should also be available within the same timeframe. An update on phragmites control noted that the invasive plant is not only present in Moses Lake but is now widespread across nearly all local bodies of water.

Columbia Basin Conservation District - Ron Sawyer, Anna Maletzke

Westshore Drive Septic Program update by R. Sawyer

The Westshore Drive Septic Program has progressed with 11 sewer connections completed. Efforts are ongoing to identify additional funding sources to support the program. City inspectors are currently on site overseeing the work, and Western Pacific Engineering is conducting soil compaction as part of the project.

Groundwater Study update by R. Sawyer

The Groundwater Study update included input from Justin, the Quality Management Systems and Compliance Coordinator for Trout Lodge. Discussions are underway to identify opportunities to reduce phosphorus levels at the facility. Trout Lodge is open to suggestions and potential strategies to help minimize phosphorus contributions to the surrounding environment.

Outreach & Events by A. Maletzke

Outreach efforts by MLWC were highlighted, including the recent newsletter distribution. MLWC participated in the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival and the Grant-Adams Eco Gardening Symposium to engage with the public and raise awareness about local water issues. The Grant County Health District also created a social media reel featuring the Grant-Adams Blue-Green Algae Tracker. Looking ahead, the Crab Creek Summit is scheduled for June 3rd and 4th, with the first day taking place at the Wanapum Heritage Center and the second day consisting of field-based activities.

Meeting Adjourned - 11:19 AM

Next Meeting June 17, 2025
10:00 AM to Noon
CBCD Office 903 W. 3rd Ave, Moses Lake, WA 98837

moseslakewatershed.org

"Improving, protecting, and preserving the water quality in Moses Lake and our greater watershed for present and future generations"