

Meeting Notice

A meeting of the Planning Unit for the WRIA 55 and 57 Local Watershed Planning program will be held at:

Time: **10:00 am**
Date: **October 17, 2001**
Place: **Conference Room**
 Spokane County Conservation District
 210 N. Havana Spokane, WA

Agenda

- 10:00 am Call to Order: Introduction of Committee Members**
Facilitator Lead
- 10:05 am Discuss and Approve September Meeting Summary**
Facilitator Lead
- 10:10 Little Spokane River Instream Flow Work**
Stan Miller and Golder Associates
- 10:50 Formation of Work Group to Review Irrigation Claims**
Stan Miller: Explanation of work group task
Facilitator Lead
- 10:55 Status of Grants and Supplemental Funding**
Stan Miller
- 11:15 November Public Meetings Goals and Preparation**
Facilitator Lead
- 11:50 Other items of Public or Committee Concern**
Facilitator Lead
- 11:55 Wrap Up of Session: Facilitator summarizes information presented**
- 12:00 Adjourn**

If you have any questions regarding this notice contact Stan Miller at (509) 477-7259 or via e-mail at smiller@spokanecounty.org

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
October 17, 2001

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Gary Fergen	Tom Hargreaves	Bryony Hansen
Neil White	Gus Koedding	Sarah Hubbard-Gray
Lloyd Brewer	Neil Beaver	Stan Miller
Harry McLean, Jr.	Rachael Pascal Osborn	Reanette Boese
Jani Gilbert	Steve Silkworth	Erin Cunningham
Roger Krieger	Ty Wick	John Covert

Introductions: Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah provided an overview of the agenda and asked if there were comments on the September 19, 2001 Meeting Summary. There were no comments on the meeting summary.

Little Spokane River Instream Flow Work: Stan Miller explained that a meeting was held on October 10, 2001 with representatives of the Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Golder Associates on the Little Spokane River (LSR) Instream Flow work. The strategy of starting work on the LSR first, and waiting to begin the Middle Spokane River instream flow work due to Avista's relicensing process was discussed. As part of the meeting, they discussed the existing LSR conditions and went on a field trip along the LSR to get familiar with the conditions. John Covert from the Department of Ecology explained that the existing instream flow value was not based on scientific data. The following items and strategies for the work were also discussed:

- The LSR work will consider existing Department of Fish and Wildlife data and fish species present.
- The tributary areas need to be included in the work as much as possible to evaluate the fish spawning habitat. It was recognized that there is not enough money to do all that is needed. Golder will look at existing analyses to identify similar habitat areas so more work can be done for less money.
- There will be coordination with the Conservation District to identify and use existing data, historic flow measurements, and cross section information that they have.

Stan Miller explained that Planning Unit members, along with resource agency representatives need to be involved with the development of the Instream Flow scope of work for the LSR. He indicated that it would probably take two to three meetings to develop the scope of work, and asked if the whole Planning Unit or a work group made up of Planning Unit representatives should be involved. The following questions and items were discussed and/or explained:

- How will the LSR work set the stage for the Middle Spokane River instream flow work? Stan Miller explained that the Middle Spokane River work will be independent and may not look like the LSR work or product.
- What is the relationship between the instream flow value that results from this study and the instream flow recommendation that the Planning Unit is supposed to make? The Planning Unit discussed issues associated with this question -- the Planning Unit could recommend to keep the current regulated flow values, or different flow values could be recommended to align with the flow descriptions that Ecology is developing.
- This instream flow work will be based on biota and use best available science. Broad science areas and other considerations can be included.

The Planning Unit decided to form an Instream Flow Work Group made up of Planning Unit members with an interest and/or technical background in instream flow. This work group will assist in developing the draft scope of work which will be presented to the entire Planning Unit for review and comment. Planning Unit volunteers were identified, along with recommendations on others to request to participate. The scope of work needs to be finalized by the end of February 2002.

Formation of Work Group to Review Irrigation Claims: Stan Miller explained that the current water use and allocation through claims needs to be reviewed so assumptions can be developed on allocations made through claims. Stan requested volunteers for a work group to establish criteria for looking at claims, to review the actual claims and determine what values should be provided to and used by Golder in the upcoming computer modeling work.

Concerns were raised regarding the difficulty of interpreting the claims, evaluating “legal rights”, assessment of water needs associated with the claims, the amount of time it will take to go through the claims, and the amount of erroneous information in the claims. Additional discussion revolved around the need to clean up the claims even if it takes a long time, the possibility that this effort may move more claims into adjudication, and the need to understand the difference between what is needed for the model and what is in the claims.

After discussion, the Planning Unit agreed to assign the work to the original Water Rights and Claims Work Group, plus new interested Planning Unit representatives.

Grant Status: Stan Miller explained that the Planning Unit has been awarded the Phase III grant funds, but that he has not heard yet about the supplemental funding. The Phase III work will move forward, and the preparation for the Supplemental work will begin so the data collection can begin in March 2002 associated with the instream flow work.

November 2001 Public Meetings: Sarah Hubbard-Gray provided an overview of the planning for the November public meetings and explained that the Public Meeting Work Group had met to begin the meeting preparations. The Valley meeting will be on November 14 at West Valley High School and the North meeting will be on November 15 at Riverside High School, both from 7 pm to 9 pm. The public meeting notice, meeting notice distribution, news release, meeting format and meeting display options were discussed. The Planning Unit provided comments that

the Work Group will consider as the public meeting preparations continue. Planning Unit representatives were requested to attend the public meetings in their area.

Other Items Discussed: Stan Miller explained that Golder submitted the draft Data Assessment Report for internal review, and that it will be posted on the project web page soon for Planning Unit review.

Due to the holidays, it was decided that only one more Planning Unit meeting will be held this year. The next Planning Unit meeting was set for December 5, 2001 at 10:00 am. The Water Rights and Claims Work Group will meet on December 5, 2001 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.